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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the government go ahead with a homestead project in Marpi?

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NSIDE



Budget Cuts

Major overhaul plans laid out by the Pentagon chief would slash several giant weapons programs.

NATION...Page 14



Death Toll

Italy's deadliest quake in nearly three decades struck before dawn Monday, killing more than 150 people.

WORLD...Page 16

'Not Guilty'

Chris Brown has pleaded not guilty to threatening and assaulting his girlfriend, music superstar Rihanna.

FOURTH ARSON CASE IN 2 MONTHS

Kagman house set on fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

n unoccupied house in Kagman III was intentionally set on fire Thursday night, bringing to four the number of suspected arson cases on Saipan in the last two months.

No one was hurt in the fire, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro yesterday.

Ogumoro said DPS received a report of a structural fire at a house in Kagman III on Thursday at 6:56pm. Firemen responded to the area and placed the blaze under control at 7:19pm.

Ogumoro said arson investigators reported that the fire was confined to the interior portion of the semi-concrete house and caused severe damage to the inside of the building.

The investigators also deter-See KAGMAN on Page 4

Villagomez's motion to dismiss indictment junked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The federal court has denied Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez's latest motion to dismiss the indictment against him and codefendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

In a written order issued Monday, U.S. District Court Chief See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4

'Marpi homestead project not set in stone'

By KRISTI EATON kristi_eaton@saipantriune.com REPORTER



The Fitial administration assured yesterday there is no firm commitment that the 62 hectares cur-

rently being cleared of unexploded ordnance in Marpi will be the site of future homesteads.

Although existing plans call for the development of approximately 500 homesteads and re-See MARPI on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

Ceremony for Tinian homestead applicants set for Apr. 24. PAGE 5



'Furloughs won't affect Saipan Mayor's Office'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth deposa@saipantribune.com

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela may get to keep all of

his employees after all. This developed following the resignation of 13 of his staff, allowing him to avoid furloughing the rest of his employees up to Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year,

From 64 personnel two months ago, Tudela now

has only 50 employees, majority of whom are assigned to key programs and divisions that directly involve the delivery of services.

"Furloughs would not happen here. The Saipan Mayor's Office is still OK until the end of the fiscal

See FURLOUGHS on Page 4

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela answers questions from the media during an interview at his office in San Antonio.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



PSS to promote over 2,100 students this year. PAGE 2 Kilili seeks answers to visa waiver questions. PAGE 3



2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

PSS to promote over 2,100 students this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

Over 2,100 students from public primary and secondary schools are expected to be promoted to and instruction, said Monday the next level this school year, according to the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Services.

Jackie Quitugua, associate commissioner for curriculum

that the potential graduates for the current school year is almost the same number in the previous school year.

Quitugua said the five high

schools on island—Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Rota High School, and Tinian High School—are expected to graduate 537 students beginning next month to early June.

Last school year, seniors who graduated from public schools totaled 558.

This year's batch of graduates is the first group that complied with the CNMI Board of Education's policy of 28 credit requirements, which was approved in 2006. The old standard required 21 credits. BOE increased from 6 to 8 its credit units for English and from three to six its credit units for math for graduating senior students.

Quitugua said the potential graduates are based on the current school year record of seniors admitted to PSS since the beginning of classes in September 2008. The number, she added, may increase if some junior students complete credit requirements in advance.

From the 12 elementary schools, Quitugua said PSS is expecting to promote a total of 826 sixth graders on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The CNMI has four middle schools—Chacha Oceanview, Hopwood, Tinian, and Rota junior high schools—which expect to promote 824 eighth graders to the secondary level.

The more than 2,100 graduating students do not include the hundreds of kindergarten students that will be promoted to first grade this school year.

Saipan Tribune learned that in SY 2007-2008, a total of 595 students graduated from public high schools, with 44 percent pursuing college here and abroad.

Some 131, or 22 percent, joined the military, while 16 percent sought immediate employment after graduation.

In early interviews, administrators and school officials in at least three public high schools on Saipan said a decline in this year's graduates is imminent as a result of the new credit requirements for graduation and the anticipated implementation of federalization, which forced some families to relocate offisland with their children.

At Saipan Southern High School, for instance, from last year's 147 graduates only 107 are expected to finish this school year—the lowest figure in the graduation history of the school.

The decline, school administrators said, was due to the exodus of local families as a result of the economic hardship being experienced on the islands.

At Marianas High School, potential graduates seem "stable" at present as all 215 seniors are expected to march in June.





PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Coordinated by Vernon-Lee Manglona, these members of the Saipan Awaodori Team go through rigorous practice at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center. The group is now preparing for the 3rd Awaodori Festival to be held on April 16, 2009, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. The kids will dance with the Tokyo Tensuiren group of Tokyo Japan, who will come here to celebrate the Saipan Awaodori Festival. This is one of the events coordinated by PDM Promoters Inc., a CNMI non-profit corporation. Its major sponsors are Fiesta Resort & SPA, NTT Docomo Pacific and Duty Free Galleria, in collaboration with DCCA and MVA.



Kilili seeks answers to visa waiver questions

kristi eaton@saipantribune.com

With the 180-day extension to the start of the federalization law granted recently, CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan said he is hoping to get more answers to his questions regarding the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

A joint Guam-Visa Waiver Program was created under Public Law 110-229, which extends U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI. The interim final rule was published in January, leaving

China and Russia two emerging tourism markets for the Commonwealth—off the list of countries eligible for visa-free entry.

The Department of Homeland Security, which last week granted the CNMI government's

request for a 180-day delay from June 1 to Nov. 28, left China and Russia out of the visa waiver because the agency said border security was not adequate.

Sablan said he, as well as



Sablan

many others, have tried to get an explanation as to what measures need to be worked on in order for the two countries to be included, but he has yet to get a clearcut answer.

"All these things, these are the very things I'd like to understand. Until they explain those reasons to us we don't know what they are and how can we fix these things," he said.

The Bush administration

wrote and released the visa ter website. waiver regulations back in January, a few days before President Obama took office.

"We're hoping this president may be more open and reasonable, but we can't be open and reasonable unless we know exactly, we need to know exactly, what their concerns are," Sa-

A 60-day comment period on the interim final rule ended last month. DHS is now going through and assessing the comments left on the Federal Regis-

The Visa Waiver Program is the only regulation relating to the implementation of the law that has been released for public comment. Regulations relating to foreign workers, investors, students and retirees have not vet been released for comment.

When Sablan was told about the 180-day extension, he presented a letter laying out some of his concerns about the implementation of the law. The extra time should allow for more preparation.

guide, and a civil fine of \$500 to

\$2,000 for misrepresentation.

DHS more time to consider specific populations in the CNMI that will be greatly impacted if the regulations are not carefully written. As it is right now, some legal residents of the Commonwealth who do not have a valid U.S. visa will not be able to reenter the CNMI if they must leave for a medical emergency or other reason. He asked DHS to create regulations allowing any legal resident to leave and re-enter without the need for a new U.S. visa.

He hopes the delay will allow

"Fundamental to immigration is that it unites family and not separate them, and unless something is done in the implementation of the CNMI [federalization law], we could be separating families in two years," he said.

\$50,000 investment, other new requirements eyed for NMI tour operators

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

The House Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends additional requirements for tour operators to help improve the industry, including a minimum investment of \$50,000, the employment of at least one tour guide, and civil fines of up to \$2,000.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, recommends the passage of House Bill 16-32 in the form of House Draft 1.

House Bill 16-32, introduced by Reyes, authorizes the Marianas Visitors Authority to regulate tour operators and tour guides in the CNMI.

Reyes brought up the issue of regulating tour operators and tour guides during last month's Marine Sports Forum sponsored by the Coastal Resources

Management.

"Imposing additional requirements on tour businesses will ensure that only legitimate tour businesses operate in the Commonwealth," the committee said in its four-page report.

The other requirements for tour operators include membership and certification by MVA, maintaining a bank account under the business name, maintaining an office space in the CNMI, and having insurance as required by MVA.

In order to be certified by MVA, prospective tour guides will need to attend training courses to learn about the history, culture and scenic landmarks and attractions of the CNMI, and to attain proficiency in English and other relevant languages.

The tour guide training course is to be developed by MVA, in consultation with Northern

Marianas College, the Historic Preservation Office, and other relevant entities.

The bill further tasks the MVA board of directors with establishing rules of professional conduct for tour operators and tour guides.

The committee said House Bill 16-32's intent is to address the numerous complaints regarding the lack of professionalism and misleading advertised services provided by individuals acting as tour guides or tour operators.

"Such complaints range from tourists being provided with inaccurate information while on tours or tourists being picked up at the airport by tour guides inappropriately dressed and taken to a hotel in a personal vehicle that is dirty and unsafe in appearance," the committee said.

These complaints, said the committee, will eventually have

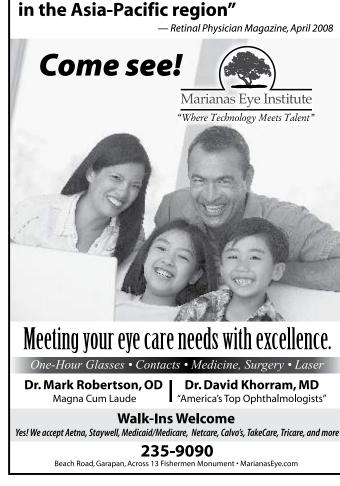
a negative impact on both the CNMI's tourism industry and the overall goal of promoting the CNMI as a premier tourist destination.

The bill also provides for up to \$2,000 in civil fine for tour operators employing an uncertified tour









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BRUCE **L. M**AILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA **B**. **K**ARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

'Villagomez gave instructions to buy Rydlyme'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Acting Power Division manager Gary P. Camacho testified yesterday that Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, in his capacity then as executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., instructed him to process the purchase orders for a chemical called Rydlyme.

During questioning by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Camacho recognized documents shown him as those pertaining to several purchases and subsequent CUC checks as payments to ISLA Micronesia Sales.

Missing in the documents, however, Camacho said, are the requests from the power plant's Power Generation Division on Saipan as well as from CUC Rota and Tinian.

Camacho, who is also the ment section, testified that any

mined that the fire originated

from within a room at the east-

ern portion of the house, she

at the time of the fire," said Ogu-

moro, adding that a 35-year-old

lated infrastructure on the land,

the homestead plan itself was

part of a master development

plan created by the CNMI gov-

"The house was unoccupied

KAGMAN

From Page 1

MARPI

From Page 1

nor's Office.

said.

purchases under \$50,000 is considered small purchases, while those above \$50,000 are considered big, requiring a contract.

All purchases should have requests from the divisions, being the end users, he said.

He related that between 1998 to 2000, he was familiar with the four to five CUC transactions to purchase Rydlyme.

Shown a handwritten note by O'Malley, Camacho said it pertains to the first purchase of 375 gallons of Rydlyme, where Villagomez gave instructions for Camacho to prepare the purchase order for the product.

At the time, Camacho was the purchasing supervisor.

"He [Villagomez] did call me at my desk that he wanted this material to be purchased," the witness said.

Shown five documents related to the purchase of 375 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$13,125 from ISLA Micronesia. O'Mallev asked Camacho what he believes are missing. Camacho replied that there's no document from any division requesting for the Rydlyme.

ISLA Micronesia is owned by James A. Santos. He and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos, are Villagomez's co-defendants.

Camacho said that, at the time of that transaction, he was not aware that James Santos is a brother-in-law of Villagomez.

As for the second purchase of Rydlyme, Camacho said Villagomez told him to prepare a purchase order for 1,200 to 2,000 gallons more of Rydlyme.

Camacho recognized a document as Santos' quotation for 2,000 gallons of Rydlyme at \$35 per gallon, for a total of \$70,000.

Camacho recognized two purchases orders at 1,000 gallons or \$35,000 worth each for Rota and Tinian. Camacho said Villagomez instructed him to prepare two purchase orders for the two islands.

Camacho said that, based on his knowledge of CUC procurement regulations, there should have been a request from a division and request for quotations.

In the third Rydlyme transaction, Camacho identified a document as another ISLA Marianas quotation dated July 13, 1998. Camacho said the quotation became a purchase for 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme.

O'Malley asked why it became 3,000 gallons when the initial request from the Power Division was for 2,000 gallons.

"The director [Villagomez] wanted more product," Camacho replied.

He said the purchase of 3,000 gallons was worth \$105,000.

Camacho said three purchases orders were prepared at \$35,000 each for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Of five documents relating to this purchase, Camacho said the quotations from vendors and a contract were missing. He said there was no request from Rota and Tinian, too.

On the fourth purchase,

O'Malley presented a document from CUC's Power Division asking for 20 drums or 1,100 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$38,500.

Camacho said Villagomez wanted more Rydlyme and a purchase order for 1,400 gallons worth \$49,000 was then issued.

On the fifth transaction, there was a request for 2,000 gallons of Rydlyme, apparently for the cooling system in the power engines for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Asked by O'Malley about a report from the Power Division manager that he (Camacho) gave instructions for the 2,000 more gallons, Camacho denied this, saying he didn't have the authority to make the order.

O'Malley asked why the amount was reduced to \$49,000 instead of \$70,000.

"No, I don't really knew exactly why," he said.

During cross examination by attorney Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, Camacho agreed that Santos' submission of documents to CUC pertaining to the purchase or Rydlyme was consistent with CUC procurement regulations.

Camacho told Torres that he had no personal knowledge with respect to the 2007 Rydlyme transactions.

When Saipan Tribune left the courtroom, attorney David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, was still cross-examining Camacho.

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that Villagomez and his co-defendants have not presented any argument or rationale to fulfill their "difficult burden" to demonstrate any "flagrant misconduct" by the U.S. government that would warrant dismissing the indictment.

Munson also denied Villagomez's motion to disclose the entire grand jury proceedings, saying the defendants have not produced anything more than 'unsubstantiated, speculative assertions of improprieties in the grand jury proceedings" that does not outweigh the policy of grand jury secrecy.

Villagomez filed Tuesday, March 31, the motion to dismiss. The Santos couple joined in the motion. The three argued that the indictment must be dismissed because of "prosecutorial overreaching."

Prosecutorial overreaching refers to a prosecutor's misconduct that is designed to cause or provoke a mistrial in order to obtain a second, more favorable opportunity to convict the accused.

Guam attorney Leilanie V. Lujan, one of Villagomez's counsels, asserted that a conversation between the prosecutor and the grand jury were not recorded.

In opposing the motion, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley pointed out that the colloquys were recorded, but neither transcribed nor produced.

In his ruling, Munson said courts may dismiss an indictment "when the grand jury's function has been so subverted as to compromise the integrity of the judicial process...."

However, Munson said, courts will not invoke this harsh remedy lightly.

The one challenging an indictment, the judge said, carries a difficult burden. "He must demonstrate that the prosecutor engaged in flagrant misconduct that deceived the grand jury or significantly impaired its ability to exercise independent judgment." Munson said.

In this case, Munson said, Villagomez and co-defendants initially argued that the independence of the grand jury was

compromised because the assistant U.S. attorney engaged in unrecorded discussions with the grand jurors regarding the evidence and witnesses, in violation of the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure.

The Procedure, he said, requires all grand jury proceedings, except deliberation and voting, to be recorded.

However, at the hearing, Munson noted, the U.S. government clarified that the transcripts given to the defense were only excerpts of the proceedings and that the entire proceedings were recorded.

Munson said the portions of the recordings that were not given to the defense were those portions where the prosecutor discussed with the grand jurors any additional questions they might have for the witness.

In response, defendants argued that even if the entire proceedings were recorded, the U.S. still may have engaged in "prosecutorial overreaching" because it may have failed to ask the questions that the jurors wanted answered, it may have convinced the jurors not to ask questions the jurors wanted answered, or it may have

distorted the jurors' questions. The defendants asked the court to order the U.S. to turn over the grand jury proceedings in their entirety.

Munson disagreed.

"Mere unsubstantiated, speculative assertions of improprieties in the proceedings do not supply the 'particular need' required to outweigh the policy of grand jury secrecy," the judge said.

Here, Munson said, the defendants have not pointed to any particular need that outweighs the policy of grand jury secrecy.

"The need to ensure that the government did not overreach is not a particular need and has not been substantiated by anything other than speculation that the government may have engaged in improprieties," he said.

Munson said he has carefully reviewed both the transcripts that were given to the defense as well as the excerpted colloquies between the prosecutor and the grand jurors regarding any additional questions.

Munson determined that the record is complete and does not indicate any "prosecutorial overreaching."

acting CUC public information officer and a former purchasing supervisor for CUC's procure-

male owns the house. Investigators classified the fire as arson-related.

"This case is pending further investigation. The Fire Division needs the community's help in providing any information that will help in locating the suspect(s) involved in this case," Ogumoro said.

Last March 14, a two-story

building under renovation in Tanapag was intentionally set ablaze by an unidentified person or persons.

On Feb. 5, an unoccupied house in Afetnas was reportedly intentionally set on fire by an unidentified person or persons.

On Feb. 16, an abandoned house in Kagman III Phase 1

"A project of this magnitude

deserves greater public scrutiny,"

she said, adding that there seems

to be growing public concern

about how the ordnance removal

effort is being conducted, "which

involves massive clear cutting of

trees in a very sensitive area," and

future plans for development after

Sablan, a member of the House's

Commerce and Tourism commit-

tee, said it would be appropriate

for the Legislature, particularly the

Tourism committee, and the com-

mittees on Natural Resources and

Health. Education and Welfare

to summon the major players in-

volved for more information and

The public needs to understand

solicit public comment.

jor action is taken.

the removal effort.

was set on fire by unidentified person or persons. Investigators discovered that an electrical drop line that should have been connected from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s telephone pole to the house's electrical meter was no longer there.

As of yesterday, no one has been arrested yet in the four reported arson cases.

Some in the community, like why the unexploded ordnance Rep. Tina Sablan, are calling for needs to be removed, how it is public meetings before any mabeing removed, and the basic intentions of the Brownsfields pro-

> gram, the representative said. "If we feel that homestead development would not be the best use of that area once the unexploded ordnance removal has been completed, especially considering the lack of basic infrastructure and the proximity to important tourist sites and habitats, then we should also begin thinking about better alternatives, not only for the use of that area, but also for the homestead program," she said.

The area in Marpi lacks basic infrastructure like water, sewer, power and community roads.

There are more than 3,000 homestead applicants on Saipan who are waiting for their lot assignments.

ernment more than 10 years ago, according to Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Gover-

There's no firm commitment and the administration welcomes community feedback, he added.

"There might be some who want homesteads and I'm sure there are some people who might not want homesteads in that area," he said, noting that the location is close to tourist sites.

There is no strong preference either way, the press secretary said. But the ordnance is being cleared for safety rea-

year, with or without furloughs,"

he said yesterday, adding that the

allocated \$1.1 million personnel

cost will pay for his remaining

Tudela said he discussed this

"I informed the governor that

we will be okay until Septem-

ber ... and we don't need to

enforce the furlough or termi-

nation of employees—at least

at the Saipan Mayor's Office—

because we lost some staff re-

with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a

50 employees.

meeting last week.

sons, he added.

Why now?

Reyes said as much as possible the administration wants to clear the CNMI of all unexploded ordnance as a matter of public policy, especially when federal grants are available. He said he could not speak for past administrations, but the present administration has made good use of Environmental Protection Agency funds for such purposes.

A hazardous waste material company recently began clearing vegetation from the area, located near Suicide Cliff, in order to remove the unexploded ordnance, under a \$350,000 Brownfields grant from the EPA.

JD Robinson, an associate at Ampro, the hazardous waste material company, said all indigenous trees will be saved.

Ampro will be working on the area for about nine months.

his office's personnel cost.

available manpower to prevent them from hiring more people. Tudela, who is in his last term

He conceded that his situation won't likely be the case for Rota and Tinian, which have 136 and nearly 100 em-

In February, the mayor

warned that the severe condition of the government's general fund this fiscal year will leave his office no option but to implement a wage cut on all personnel until the CNMI's revenue stream recovers.

From a previous annual budget of \$2.5 million for Saipan, the amount dropped significantly, resulting in only \$1.2 million for personnel costs this fiscal year. The amount reflects the 5 percent across-the-board cut on allotments of all government instrumentalities.

With the limited budget for personnel and operations, the mayor said there's always the

This year's approved budget does not include the austerity and non-paid holiday proposals of the Fitial administration, forcing the administration to implement non-renewals, furloughs, and terminations of contracts. It was earlier projected that the islands' mayor's offices would mostly bear the brunt of the cuts.

Last fiscal year, a number of municipality employees were issued notices of termination and non-renewal of their contracts. The order, however, was later rescinded until the end of the fiscal year.

chance for a shortfall.

cently," he said, adding that the **FURLOUGHS** resignations and transfers of 13 From Page 1 employees helped him adjust

Besides the hiring freeze on replacement positions, Tudela said his office is also maximizing

as mayor, admitted that that he does not want to displace his employees.

ployees, respectively.

Ceremony for Tinian applicants set for Apr. 24

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Hundreds of qualified Tinian homestead applicants will receive their congratulatory letters from the Department of Public Lands on April 24, even as Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario said that Tinian and Rota homestead applicants should patiently wait for the actual distribution of lots as DPL hurdles regulatory agencies' requirements, among other things.

Three of four members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation chaired by Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola yesterday said they stand ready to assist DPL in preparing for the April 24 ceremony.

"We understand the legal and regulatory issues that must be met under the homestead program and we're thankful for your leadership and patience on this effort," Mendiola, Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas, and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan told Del

Rosario

Del Rosario, in a phone interview, said there are over 400 homestead applicants on Tinian, but some of them were found to have also filed similar applications on Rota.

DPL, he said, has also been working with regulatory agencies like the Division of Fish and Wildlife to make sure the Mariana mallards, a bird species endemic to the Marianas, are not impacted with the development

Informational materials about

Article 12, which were distrib-

uted during the meeting, stated

that a child born to 100 percent

Northern Marianas descent and

Pierce, and Rose White.

of homesteads in the area.

"The archaeological survey will be done soon, and the actual land survey will happen in about a month or two. Upon the completion of the land survey, the DPL office on Tinian will call the recipients for the drawing of the lots," Del Rosario said.

The request for proposal for the land survey is expected to be issued next week.

The Tinian Legislative Delegation, in their two-page letter

non-NMD descent couple would be considered 50 percent NMD based on blood quantum. If this child should marry a non-NMD

and they have a child, that child would be 25 percent NMD. "Tinian homestead applicants have waited far too long for this

to Del Rosario, acknowledged

that actual issuance of home-

stead lots also hinges on an im-

pending survey on West Tinian

cally the would-be recipients

of the congratulatory letters,

would welcome this day with

Sen. Jude U. Hofshneider,

chairman of the Senate Com-

mittee on Resources, Economic

Development and Programs and

secretary of the Tinian Legisla-

tive Delegation, earlier said Tin-

ian residents have waited far too

long for at least 400 homestead

lots, even as DPL had said on

Jan. 9 that these lots will be dis-

tributed by early February.

"Our people, more specifi-

and other scattered lots.

gratitude," they added.

process to be completed and at a minimum, they deserve to know when this issue will be resolved," Hofschneider told Del Rosario.

May or June distribution on Rota

On Rota, there are over 500 homestead applicants but only about 100 are available for distribution, said Del Rosario.

The DPL secretary said a drawback on the development of homestead and agricultural areas on Rota is that a large portion of these sites is inhabited by the Marianas crow or aga, an endangered bird species. He said DPL is working with DFW on how best to develop these areas for homesteads, to balance the need to provide homesteads and protect bird species.

Homestead lot distribution on Rota will be either in late May or early June, said Del Rosario.

'Article 12 discriminatory and should be removed'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Article 12 is discriminatory and should therefore be removed from the CNMI Constitution, the Citizens for Change of Article 12 yesterday told Rotary Club of Saipan members and guests.

"Our goal is to remove it hopefully in 2011. It needs to be removed so people can dispose of their personal property [instead of the government dictating them what to do with it]," group president Efrain F. Camacho said during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan.

Camacho and other members of the non-profit group reiterated that abolishing Article 12 gives everyone the complete right to do whatever they want with their own property, including giving it to their loved one even if that someone is not of Northern Marianas descent as defined in the Constitution.

"I don't want to leave this earth knowing that my kids and grandkids and their kids and so on will not be able to own the property I pass down to them," Citizens for Change of Article 12 treasurer David Sablan reiterated.

The Citizens for Change of Article 12 has been meeting

with business groups, students and other members of the community to share their findings on the discriminatory nature of Article 12 with the hope that they make an educated decision on what to do with the land alienation provision come 2011.

Last week, the group was the guest speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting. A few weeks ago, the group met with some students at Northern Marianas College.

Camacho said they will also be visiting villages to conduct a similar education campaign.

Article 12 restricts the fee simple sale of CNMI real property exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent and other constitutionally qualified individuals based on certain political definitions.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986.

That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Besides Camacho and Sablan, other group members who were at the Rotary Club meeting were vice president Sen. Frica Pangelinan, secretary Vince Seman, Alex Sablan, Marian Aldan-



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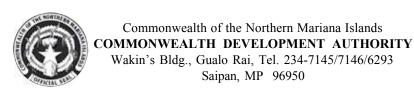


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NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *March 16, 2009*, approved of the Commonwealth Development Authority's (CDA's) recommendation to modify Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2008-01 for Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Kagman*, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately \$54.2 million to construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course located at Kagman, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan **Executive Director**

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this advertisement is paid for by the Beneficiary

PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENT

he Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons (CARP) will hold a meeting for all retirees and all members of the retirement fund on April 13, 2009 the Multi-Purpose Center Susupe at 6:00 pm. Agenda for the meeting includes an update on CARP and a discussion with Retirement Fund officials on the state of the fund and what we can do to save our retirement system. All retirees and all members of the fund are urged to attend this critically important meeting.

Muña: More engineers, mechanics crucial for CUC

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Hiring more engineers and mechanics will be critical to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. goal to rehabilitate the engines at Power Plant 1 and end the use of the emergency Aggreko generators in September.

At the unveiling of two rehabilitated engines last week, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said the utility agency needs five or six more mechanics and engineers to continue with the PP1 rehabilitation effort.

"We're looking at the amount of overtime hours for the folks, and they've been really dedicated to see this thing through," he said of the rehabilitation of engines 3 and 7. "But these are 12 hour days, sometimes 16 hour days. And you can only go so far on that."

There are still five more engines that need to be rehabilitated, and with a tired workforce it makes it that much harder, Muña said.

The rehabilitation of the two engines is one of the first steps the utility agency expects to take as it prepares for September, when the one-year contract for the emergency Aggreko generators concludes. Under the \$6 million contract, CUC has been renting 15 megawatts of power from Aggreko, ending the blackouts that had been plaguing the island for several months prior.

CUC must inform Aggreko by June whether it opts to extend the contract for another six months. Muña has repeatedly said CUC will not need to extend the contract.

Last week he said engine 2 is expected to be up and running by April 30 and engine 1 by May 31.

By June, Muña said CUC's Power Plant 1 would produce approximately 40 megawatts of power.

Gov. Benigno Fitial listed the need for additional manpower as one of his reasons for continuing the state of disaster emergency for CUC. In the latest emergency order dated March 31, Fitial said eight more mechanics and eight more operators are needed to run the equipment. However, there is a shortage of such U.S. professionals who have experience with CUC's equipment. Public Law 16-14 capped the number of foreign-national professionals CUC could hire at the present 19. The order stated CUC plans to ask the Legislature for relief from the statute.

Muña said he appreciates the professionals who have been working at the utility agency.

"They've been through a lot," he said. "I really want to commend them for that. You know you try to work in a very harsh environment, when you stick around, that's an admirable quality. My hat is off to them."

Saipan joins celebration of jazz artists, educators



Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela signs a proclamation declaring April as Jazz Appreciation Month, in honor of the outstanding contributions by jazz artists, educators and enthusiasts on the island, during a brief ceremony yesterday afternoon. Looking on are, from left, acting principal of Marianas High School Karen Borja, Chechang S. Sablan, Dolores B. Manibusan, and Saipan Municipal Council chair Antonina M. Tudela. The mayor says jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world.

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela yesterday declared April as Jazz Appreciation Month on Saipan, responding to the call of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to extend the celebration of jazz artists and educators throughout the states and territories.

Yesterday's endorsement marked the second year that Saipan is joining the national celebration.

Jazz—an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of the national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation—has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of the America's greatest exports to the world.

"Here on Saipan, we have so many of them who have made significant contributions, especially in the field of music, traditional dances, poetry, and folk story telling. We're here to honor and remember them among the hundreds of who have made the art of jazz a national and world treasure celebrated by leaders, institutions, educators and communities globally," Tudela said during yesterday's ceremony at his office.

The mayor said America's jazz heritage deserves to be appreciated as broadly as possible and should be part of education in both America's children and adults.

"Jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the U.S. Here in the CNMI it has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together..." Tudela said.

To expand the celebration among youths and students, the mayor has asked the support of Marianas High School principal Karen Borja and municipal council chair Antonina Tudela, who were both present in yesterday's ceremony.

Throughout April 2009, the National Museum of American History continues its celebration—now on its eighth year of Jazz Appreciation Month.

JAM shines the spotlight on the extraordinary history of jazz and its importance in American culture.

Through concerts, lectures, films, and other programs the event encourages people of all ages to attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz and support institutional jazz programs.

Launched at the museum in April 2002, JAM added to the Smithsonian Institution's 30year record of leadership in

Smithsonian operates the world's most comprehensive set of jazz programs—including exhibitions, publications and recordings, concerts, workshops and others. The museum collects jazz artifacts and sponsors the institution's jazz programs.

3 artists to be honored at Flame Tree festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will pay tribute and dedicate this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival to three local artists who passed away recently.

Arts Council coordinator Lucille Ayuyu yesterday disclosed that a dedication ceremony during the festivities will honor master sand painter Albert Toves, coconut hand carver Danny Babauta, and local artist Tun Manet Dela Cruz from Tinian.

The three native talents passed away this year due to

various illnesses

Slated for April 23-26, the four-day cultural celebration is expected to attract thousands of community members and spectators from around the islands.

As of yesterday, 57 booth stations are confirmed ready for artists while 22 stations are for food vendors. Seven stations are also designated for live demonstrations and educational workshops throughout the festival.

Ayuyu said five more stations are still available.

Ayuyu, who is also the program coordinator for the festival, said four schools have confirmed their participation in the

28th Micronesian Float competition: Kagman Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Elehmentary School, and Ladera International School of Saipan.

Due to budget constraints, DCCA has shelved the booth competition this year. It earlier increased by \$50 the registration fee for artists and food vendors. The move was made to sustain expenses throughout the festival.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival will officially open on April 23, a Thursday.

On Saturday, April 25, the Parade of Cultures and float com-

petition will start at 9am. The venue will still be at the Susupe Civic Center.

Guests and off-island delegations will include seven from Palau, 10 from Tinian, and 10 from Rota.

Guam will be this year's biggest delegation, with 115 individuals expected to take part in the festival.

DCCA is paying for the ground transportation and food of all festival delegates.

The annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is the biggest arts and crafts gathering in Micronesia, drawing thousands of spectators from all over the islands.

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"Our mission is to provide an environment that will help children develop four key qualities: global understanding, service to humanity, exemplary character and a creative mind."

MTEC offers top schools cash as cleanup incentive

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will be offering cash incentives for Northern Marianas schools that join the Earth Month Islandwide Cleanup on April 17, 2009.

In addition to \$100 donated to event organizer Beautify CNMI!, MTEC is setting aside \$900 for the Public School System to be divided among the top schools with the highest percentage of student turnout for the cleanup.

MTEC says this project seeks to emphasize personal responsibility among community members in having a clean tourism destination.

"Keeping our islands beauti-

ESGR to honor employers of Guard, Reserve servicemembers

TUMON, Guam—In an effort to support local businesses that employ members of the Guard and Reserve, the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will hold its 1st Annual Employer Awards Gala on May 2 at 6pm.at Marriott Guam Resort.

The gala, themed "We all Serve," is a celebration of employers on Guam and the CNMI.

"This is our chance to say 'thank you' to the public and private businesses that support our local men and women in uniform," said Guam Foundation for Employers president Paul D. Leon Guerrero, whose organization is sponsoring this event. "When those moms and dads and brothers and sisters get called to duty to serve our country, their mind needs to be on their mission—not losing their jobs while they're away."

By law, employers must hold jobs for men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve when they get called to duty. This allows service members to concentrate on their mission.

The gala will honor the islands' most supportive employers in addition to paying tribute to one of its volunteers with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

More than 200 employers, community leaders and service members are expected to attend the gala. (PR)

ful is an important part of supporting tourism, and we encourage all schools, especially those with MY WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) clubs to have their students join the April 17 event," said MTEC chair Ed Cho. "MTEC is pleased to support this year's cleanup and help encourage a clean environment for visitors and residents alike."

Beautify CNMI partners Division of Environmental Quality, Rotary Club, and Marianas Visitors Authority are inviting all residents to plant a tree, paint over some graffiti or clean up a road or a beach during the event. Cleanup over the weekend is also encouraged for people not available on April 17. Assistance with gloves, trash bags, and trash transfer are also avail-

able from Beautify CNMI!

Sign-up forms will be the basis of awarding the MTEC incentive. Forms are available from Rotary Club member and event co-organizer Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com.

As of yesterday, April 7, six spots have been adopted by eight organizations, accounting for 136 volunteers. (MVA)



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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., 08-0322

LEONARDO P. KANI and MERTIE T. KANI, NOTICE Defendants

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on March 10, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Leonardo P. Kani and Mertie T. Kani in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 016 B 10, containing 3180 square

Lot 016 B 11, containing 3950 square

both of which are part of Lot No. 663, which in

turn is more particularly described as

Lot 663, TD 764 (now known as Lot 016 B 10, Lot 016 B 11, and Lot 016 B 12), containing an area of 1.2 hectares, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 016 B 00 the original of which was recorded October 28, 1971 as Document No. 1285 at the Land Pacietry, Scince

Note: Lot 016 B 12 is not included in this auction.

<u>Date, Time, and Place of Sale.</u> The sale will be held on April 10, 2009, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl.
Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan,
Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any daim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and whatsoever, air of which wallarities almovements are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consisten

with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands commonweatur or the Northern waterials relations governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the properly listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such properly is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatspower thereby and (3) to reject on behalf

property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to riepect, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids, Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg, Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, tate delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid. such person has submitted an advance bid

d. <u>Disputes.</u> The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit, Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mallman & Kara, ILC, within three (3) days from the date of sale. LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. <u>Memorandum of Sale.</u> If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

Court Approval, Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly motified if and when court approval is granted. notified if and when court approval is granted.

<u>Change of Terms and Conditions.</u> The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 12th day of March, 2009:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctione

CPA sets triennial disaster drill

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is holding their Triennial Disaster Drill Exercise on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 from 9am to about 12pm. This drill, as required by Federal Aviation Administration, allows CPA and other CNMI government agencies to review and assess procedures that are to be adhered to, to safely respond to a disaster,

should it occur at the Saipan International Airport. This year's drill includes an aircraft incident scenario.

CPA would like to advise the public that emergency vehicles from different regulatory agencies will be traveling to and from the Saipan International Airport for the duration of this drill and for the public not to be alarmed.

CPA would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants of the disaster exercise for taking the time during their busy schedules to assist and accommodate CPA during the drill. This disaster drill is essential for all agencies in the CNMI to be prepared for an aircraft crash incident. (CPA)

UOG to host College Night, Financial Aid Fair on Saipan

In an outreach effort to communicate directly with high school and transfer students in the CNMI, the University of Guam will conduct a College Night and Financial Aid Fair on Saipan on April 13, 2009, at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road.

Presentations about the University of Guam's academic programs, and the admissions and registration process will be held at 11am, 12 noon, and 6pm.

Students are encouraged to fill out and submit their application forms that day to ensure they

are ready to register for classes in summer or fall 2009.

Need money for college? The recruitment team from UOG will help individuals fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form online and on the spot from 10am to 7pm in the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road.

Interested students and parents seeking financial aid for UOGs 2009 summer session can bring their completed 2007 1040 and W2 forms for efficient processing. Students and parents interested in applying for Fall 2009 must bring their completed 2008 1040 and W2 forms.

Completion of the FAFSA form is required and the first step for individuals seeking federal loans or grants.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of UOGs Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2290 or julieuh@uguam. uog.edu. (UoG)

NMC course to present and apply marketing concepts

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering a short-term course presenting marketing concepts and methods of applying these concepts to different businesses.

The course will allow for participants to learn different marketing tools and the selection and execution of these tools. Participants will also be able to examine different marketing strategies from businesses worldwide and propose a model strategy.

The course, titled "Marketing and Promoting Your Business, will be held on April 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 and May 5 and 7, from 6pm to 8pm. It will be taught by Jesse Torres. Course fee is \$120.

For a more detailed description of the course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least three days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register or for information about the course, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call John Manalo at 234-5498 extension 1005 or e-mail johnm@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



April 8, 2002

Solution offered to financial worries

Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho is opening doors for DPS employees to pursue part-time job opportunities outside the department, in the wake of an ongoing initiative to reduce and eventually get rid of overtime in the government sector. Camacho disclosed the impending plan Friday during a press conference, a move that he said would first involve policy changes. "Our current regulation right now prohibits officers from taking a part-time job, especially if it's in conflict with our operation or mission. But I will change that. Because that's one way for them to take a look at the other side of the fence, look at opportunities. If the grass is greener there, they may go for it,' Camacho told reporters.

Prison project lifts off

Using 17 new, gold-colored spades that glittered hotly under the scorching, noonday sun, representatives of the Commonwealth government, the clergy, and Telesource CNMI Inc. executives finally broke ground Friday on the \$17.29-million Saipan Adult Prison project. After more than two years of delay brought on by protests and counter-protests that snagged the project's momentum, it took all of three seconds for the 17 officials to shovel the white sand and flip them through the air to complete the groundbreaking rites that officially signaled the start of the project. The new Saipan Adult Prison facility will be constructed in Susupe, Saipan, beside the old prison facility. Based on the design of the new facility, it will occupy 106,000 square feet and will be three to four feet away from the existing prison facility, imprinting itself on the open lot east of the existing prison.

April 8, 2003

Hopes high on reimbursements

The House Committee on U.S. and Foreign Affairs expressed high hopes that the U.S. Department of the Interior's recent call for a "simple, fair and transparent" Compact-impact reimbursement process would spell better chances for the CNMI to collect on the "true costs of migration." This, as committee chairman Rep. William S. Torres reiterated the need to arrive at a calibrated formula that would compute Compact-impact costs in a manner that is coherent, credible, defensible and uniform to all impacted entities-Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas. "To do otherwise would be to continue with the status quo in condoning the practice of the past that awards impact grant based on an index that may or may not muster statistical scrutiny," Torres said in a letter to Insular Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Cohen.

Diego smoothens ruffled CUC feathers

The Babauta administration has no intention of deliberately keeping the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the dark about the proposed Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant. Rather, the proposal of the Maryland-based Sea Solar Power International to set up such a plant on Saipan is still a tentative matter and the Memorandum of Understanding that Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed with the company is intended to just allow the firm to come over and check the CNMI for such a project. These were stressed by acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente in reaction to CUC board member Jack Borja's concern that the utility company was not consulted on the proposed \$50million OTEC plant on Saipan.

April 8, 2004

OPA cites Babauta for expenditure violation when he was resident rep

The Office of the Public Auditor has cited Gov. Juan N. Babauta for violating several statutes, including exceeding his budget appropriation, during his term as CNMI Resident Representative to Washington D. C. in 1998 and 1999. The management letter, released by the OPA Tuesday, disclosed that following extensive research and analyses of the collated documents, the Washington Resident's Office had expended its funds beyond its annual appropriated budgets; compensated two employees in excess of the \$50,000 salary ceiling under the Compensation Adjustment Act; was not in compliance with CNMI laws and regulations on travel and procurement; and failed to establish internal control over documentation of employees' time and attendance. Public Auditor Mike Sablan said the financial audit was conducted to determine whether the WRO had exceeded its budget allocation and if it had incurred expenditures that were not in compliance with existing laws and regulations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

1.) Star Marianas, Inc. 2.) J&P Wholesale

3.) Marianas Bible Fellowship Center, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following Conditional Use Permit Applications:

File 1. 2009-1303 by Star Marianas, Inc for construction of storage and maintenance.

2009-0959 by JP International Trade Corp. for wholesaling File 3. 2009-0119 by Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Date: April 16, 2009

Time: 5:30 pm Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Inc. for church

Above conditional use applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, April 17, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

I.

IV.

V.

Council on Developmental Disabilities Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill P.O. Box 502565 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-7000 Fax: (670) 664-7030

Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org Website: www. cnmicdd.org

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Council Members of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, through our Chairperson Marissa Guerrero, is hereby giving a notice that a Meeting is to take place on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the Lilac Room, Saipan World Resort. The Council also chooses to exercise its right to enter into Executive Session at any point during this meeting.

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters Roll Call

Establishment of Quorum Introduction of New Members

Review and Adoption of Agenda: 12/12/2008 Committees Council Membership Review Committee

Finance Committee

Adhoc-Human Resources/ Policy and Procedures Committee Adhoc-By Laws Committee
Adhoc-Call-A-Ride Guidelines and Procedure Committee

Chair

Executive Director

New Business

Membership Training with OPA VI. **Old Business** DD Awareness Month

Next Meeting

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodation are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7003. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting for Palauans on Saipan

The Palau Community Association is calling for a meeting of all Palauans on Saipan this Saturday, April 11, 2009. The meeting will be held at BAI SITE (Navy Hill), 10am. PCA is humbly requesting the participation of all Palauans to show up this Saturday. Medodak arengud e de sisichii a Belau er kid. (PR)

Free maritime hazmat transportation training seminar

The U.S. Coast Guard is hosting a free half-day seminar on maritime hazardous materials transportation. If you are in the business of handling containerized shipment of hazardous goods, then this training is for you. Topics include how to use the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 1185), labeling and placarding requirements, properly filling out shipping papers, and what to expect during Coast Guard's container inspections. The free training will be held April 13, 2009, 8am-12pm, at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. For more information, contact Lt. Julie Bethke at 236-2969. (USCG)

Memorial Day preparations begin

May 25, 2009 is Memorial Day, during which the CNMI will pay tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed away. The community will remember those who served the nation so that everyone may enjoy the fruits of freedom of a democratic society. This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee that we will begin to meet every Tuesday at 9am starting on April 14, 2009, at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

April 6-7: 3rd Quarter

Final Exams

April 14: 4th Quarter begins April 9-13: Easter Break

April 15: 3rd Quarter Report Card Distribution/ Open House, 4-6pm MHS Campus

April 27-May 1: SAT10 test (grade 9 and 11)

May 4-15: Advanced Placement Exams

May 18-22: PSS SBA Tests May 25: No classes (Memorial Day)

June 11: Graduation Ceremony

June 15: End of 4th Quarter For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Notisian pupbliku para hunta

I Areklamenton Lengguahen Chamoro yan Carilinian para u mana' guaha Hunta gi Abrit 11, 2009 gi Oran Alas Nuebi gi Egga'an guatu gi Ofisinan ManAmko'. Todu pupbliku manamakonbibida para u ma'atende este na Hunta. Para mas infotmasion, agang I ofisinan Lengguahi yan Kutura as Cindy Reyes gi tilifon 664-5326/27. Si Yu'us Ma'ase'. **(PR)**

Groundbreaking rites for new gym

SANTA RITA, Guam—A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, to initiate renovations and new construction of Charles King Gym on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

The \$33 million project, which was awarded to Guam-

during regular working hours.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS

SECRETARY OF FINANCE

Procurement And Supply

CNMI Government

ITB NO.: ITB09-SOF-073

Submission/Opening Date: April 24, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

'FUEL SUPPLY/FLEET CARD SYSTEM'

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the

Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as

per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118

and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

INVITATION

based DCK Pacific, will transform the current gymnasium and fitness center into a state-ofthe-art facility; and incorporate energy efficient and environmentally-conscious design concepts to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Silver certification.

The new Charles King Gym, slated for completion in January 2011, will support mission readiness of Joint Region Marianas, while enhancing quality of life for Military active-duty personnel, family members, reservists and retirees. (PR)

BoG to name winners of TV ad contest

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam will be announcing next week the winners of its first TV commercial contest. Prizes will be awarded during a press conference scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2009 AT 4pm at the Bank of Guam's Headquarters Conference Room on the 10th Floor of the Hagatna building.

The contest produced 46 entries produced by students in Guam and the CNMI. The competition was held from Jan. 19 through March 31, and was open to high school and college and university students throughout Guam, the CNMI and neighboring islands. Cash prizes are \$2,000 for first prize, \$1,000 for Second Prize, and \$500 for Third Prize. A Bonus category has also been

TO BID

awarded at the \$500 level. Three Honorable Mention recognitions will be made and \$250 cash prizes will be awarded for those winners. (BoG)

Free abalone workshop on Rota

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service is inviting community members in Rota to a free workshop titled "Grow-Out Requirements for Abalone Production."

Michael Ogo, NMC-CREES aquaculture program leader, will educate participants on how to grow abalone in their backvards. The free workshop will be held in Room B-2 of NMC's Tatachog Campus on Rota on Thursday, April 9, 2009 from 1pm to 4pm.

Ogo believes that this is a good time for CNMI resi-

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuan

to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in

this matter on December 15, 2008, I will

sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder.

on the terms and conditions set forth

hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and

interest of Defendants in and to the

following property: Lot No. 060 T 01,

situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana

Islands containing an area of 10,000

square meters, more or less, shown on the

Division of Lands and Surveys Official

Cadastral Plat No. 060 T 00 dated October

12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File

No. 91-083, the description therein being

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will

be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the

hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Courthouse in

Tinian. The sale will be open to the general

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms

and Conditions of Sale may be obtained

from the undersigned, either prior to or at

the sale. These terms and conditions shall

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2009.

govern the conduct of the sale

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE

incorporated herein by reference.

public.

ACTION

01-0044

AMENDED

NOTICE

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff,

LUIS A. SASAMOTO.

dents to look at conducting their own local production of abalone. He added that abalone are easy to grow, and that there is large demand locally and worldwide.

To learn more about this workshop, or any other NMC-CREES program, contact 234-5498 ext. 1707. (PR)

PAWS sets public meeting

PAWS is having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care on April 30. The meeting is open to the public. All those interested in volunteering for PAWS and saving the non-profit organization are encouraged to attend the meeting. RSVP to Bobbi Grizzard no later than April 29 at bgrizzard@ saipan.com or call 483-9464. Alternatively, you may contact

285-PAWS. (<i>PK</i>)								
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS								
NORTHERN MARIANAS) CIVIL							
HOUSING CORPORATION) ACTION							
Plaintiff,) NO.							
vs.) 07-0476							
The Estate of)							
SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG,) NOTICE							
Deceased, and SUSAN K.) OF SALE							
SOMORANG,)							
Defendants.)							

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuan to a Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 5, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all o the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1548. situated in Koblerville. Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing ar area of 885 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 ono May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated

be held on Friday, May 1, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susuper Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 9th day of March, 2009

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE



FIRST

AMENDED

NOTICE

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Happy birthday greetings to Taliyah Sablan Bocago, who is celebrating her 5th birthday today, April 8. "May you have a great one. Love you always!" Greetings come from the family.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS

ACTION

The Estate of FRANCISCO SEMAN IBA, Deceased, and MARGARITA BORJA IBA,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuan to a Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 4, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 021 T 48, situated in San Jose Village, Tinian Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 021 T 02, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Courthouse in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

84-1597 on August 15, 1984, the

description therein being incorporated

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE

herein by reference.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

DIRECTOR, P&S

from Asia	No.	Jakarta	Bangkok	P. Kelang	Melbourne	Singapore	Hochiminh	Busan	Kobe	Shanghai	Auckland	Manila	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Naha
MELL SENTOSA	018E	3/28 Sat	3/26 Thu	3/26 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/21 Sat	4/3 Fri	3/30 Mon	3/29 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/30 Mon	4/3 Fri	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/4 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/2 Thu	3/31 Tue	3/28 Sat	4/10 Fri	4/6 Mon	4/5 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	4/6 Mon	4/10 Fri	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/11 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/9 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/4 Sat	4/17 Fri	4/13 Mon	4/12 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/13 Mon	4/17 Fri	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	019E	4/18 Sat	4/16 Thu	4/16 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/11 Sat	4/24 Fri	4/20 Mon	4/19 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/20 Mon	4/24 Fri	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue
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Inbound	Voyage	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
from Asia	No.	Gı	iam	Saipan	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	018E	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/16 Thu	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue	4/24 Fri	4/25 Sat	4/30 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/17 Sun	4/29 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Thu	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	5/1 Fri	5/2 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/24 Sun	5/6 Wed
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	4/30 Thu	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue	5/8 Fri	5/9 Sat	5/14 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/31 Sun	5/13 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun	5/20 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun	5/27 Wed
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Thu	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/29 Fri	5/30 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/21 Sun	6/3 Wed

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Edgar T. Garcia Inbound Direct line (670) 236-2422

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Joy S. Cause Sales and Marketing Direct line (670) 236-2442



Website: www.mariana-express.com

10 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Afghan U-turn on women

fghan President Hamid Karzai has turned back the clock to the days of the Taliban, signing a law that strips women of basic rights protected by most civilized nations. The new Shiite Personal Status Law, which applies to the country's Shiite minority, is a disastrous step backward for millions of women, who suffered most under the Taliban's Islamic fundamentalism. It severely restricts their rights in every area of life: A Shiite woman would need her husband's or father's permission to leave the house, pursue an education, hold a job or even go to a doctor's appointment. Only fathers and grandfathers would have child-custody rights, and by stipulating how often a husband is entitled to sex, the law permits marital rape.

Shiites make up 10 percent to 20 percent of the country's population, but they are politically important to the president. Critics say Karzai pushed the law through parliament to curry favor with Islamic fundamentalists before the August election, sacrificing women's rights for his political gain. Although the law covers women in one sect, now there is legal precedent to revoke the rights of others. "We are worried that similar laws, including the family laws for Sunnis, could meet the same fate," said Soraya Sobrang of the country's Independent Human Rights Commission, according to news reports.

There have always been conflicting laws, customs and practices in Afghanistan regarding the treatment of women. But after the Taliban regime was routed by the United States in 2001, the country adopted a constitution that prohibits discrimination against women. In 2002, it also ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—the primary international treaty safeguarding women's rights—agreeing to repeal or reform laws that discriminate against them. These commitments to equality seemed to bring Afghanistan into the 21st century; the new law is a contradiction of them and a repudiation of progress.

After an international conference on Afghanistan in The Hague last week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton explained clearly why the country's progress cannot be separated from that of its women. "You cannot expect a country to develop if half its population are underfed, undereducated, under-cared for, oppressed and left on the sidelines," she said. "And we believe strongly that that's not in the interest of Afghanistan or any country."

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Reverse, then make a right

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

It's not a sign of weakness to admit that you were wrong In fact some say you'll access strength that's been there all along It's not the end of greatness to admit you might be lost It's greater to save time than to save face at any cost

It won't invite disaster to admit when you don't know For only to the emptied cup will wisdom ever flow It's not the road to ruin to go back and start again The options on the retraced path elude most average men

It's not through compensation that you heal a victim's heart To listen and seek justice...that's the best way you can start And not by way of vengeance do true justice you invite But actions that reverse your course, and serve to make things right.

coaching client of mine once commented that she could never see herself conducting workshops about her passion the way I do because she didn't feel smart enough, and that there were things she didn't know.

"What would I do if someone asked me something I didn't know?" she asked fearfully.

"Tell them you don't know," I replied.

I suggested she practice saying: "That's a great question. I'm sorry, but honestly, I don't have an answer to that, but if you give me your information. I'll do some research and get back to you."

Once I gave her that freedom, a whole new world of opportunities opened up! She became more confident to do speaking engagements and follow her passion.

Imagine that. That simple addition to her vocabulary

While it may be true, as Shakespeare said (through Lady Mac-Beth), that "what's done cannot be undone," I believe the effects of many of our actions and decisions in life can often be reversed. Embarrassment, failure, mistakes, hurts and many of the effects of our actions can be reversed if we're willing to add a few words and ideas to our own vocabularies.

How would your life be affected if you added "I don't know," "I

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

right?" to your life? Think about it.

Once I added those phrases to my own life, my own fear of speaking engagements subsided, relationships improved, sales increased, and customer approval ratings increased! As a result, freedom, that once-elusive concept that now allows me to follow my passion full-time, and see movies in the middle of the day, became reality! They freed me from the chains of ego, released me from the need to always be right, and introduced a humility that is at once empowering and disarming. It allowed me, and others with whom I dealt with, to move forward in a spirit of mutual respect, equality that fostered true cooperation and win-win outcomes for all parties. When all are

seeking remedies that truly serve, heal and lift the society upward,

many new, never-before-tried possibilities become evident.

apologize," "I was wrong," "I need help," and "How can I make it

While listening to an interview with the author of a book titled *The Myth of Moral Justice: Why Our Legal System Fails to Do What's Right*, it occurred to me that those same phrases and the ideas behind them would also come in handy in seeking real justice for the families of victims of certain crimes. As the author suggested, in our society, we've mistaken *compensation and retribution* for *remedy*. Money and vengeance don't soothe the victim. Payment does not soothe the heart. Punishment of a perpetrator does not bring back a lost loved one or help with the healing that needs to take place. It caters only to vengeful minds and hearts.

It might make our justice system more effective if, instead of reducing pain and suffering to monetary terms, we develop ways to "reverse and make a right!" Try it in your own life!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com.Hurry, there's a limited supply!

See REVERSE on Page 11

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bombers B-29

't is of some interest and with some surprise, I believe, that statesiders who visit the CNMI view our local high voter turnout at election time. There are several reasons for the high turnouts of course, but the fact is the turnouts are always high! It might almost be said that we citizens get high on elections. But now we are looking at something different than in some other years: we are looking at a full blown "primary." A primary of course elects nobody, but may in point of fact, be more important than the actual election. Why? Because the purpose of a primary is to select those who will run in the election. Picking high quality candidates is prima facie mucho importante!

But, here we run into a catch-22. In the case of the Republican Party, for example, once a winner is declared, will those who supported the losing candidate support his/her opponent? What kind of reasoning process would such a switch of internal loyalties demand? Let's look at that. Let's look at the reasoning process of the potential voter.

Every election time people make their decisions on what? How the candidate parts his hair? On the platform of the party? On the personal appeal of the candidate per se? On an depth knowledge of the issues? What? Question: Should there be a criteria established that a voter should have to meet in order to be allowed to vote? How about this.

At Christmas time in 1983, I remember reading a story I will

never forget. A local radio station played an Orson Wells-esque practical joke on its listeners. At the time, the Cabbage Patch doll craze was in full swing. The doll, a Chinese creation, could have its birth registered and other papers usually reserved for living breathing human babies issued and sent to the proud mommy—usually an 8-year-old, of course. The dolls' popularity was enormous; the price of the dolls went from 10 to 20 and more dollars overnight. In any event, the disc jockey told his listeners that his station had come into possession of two dozen of the much sought after item and were going to sell them to some lucky listeners at their cost—presumably about \$10. To compete for the prize, all they had to do was show up at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California—the station was a Los Angeles radio station.

Those who show up, said the disc jockey, could have tailgate parties and wait for the grand moment. Explaining, the DJ recounted how a World War II B-29 bomber would fly over the stadium and release the dolls out the bomb bay, and those lucky enough to be able to pick one up would just flash their Master Card, Visa, or American Express card, and the radio station would bill them later; and maybe even invite them to be on the show. Fifteen hundred people showed up at the Rose Bowl.

Now, dear reader, a doll hitting the ground at 200 miles an hour, quite apart from being totally destroyed upon impact, would in fact

By STEPHEN B. SMITH Special to the Saipan Tribune

Steve B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



become an essentially unguided but potentially lethal missile. And 24 of them...!

Now, I have a question. Who among you would grant that the people that fell for the disc jockey's joke should be allowed to vote. Or, on another score, should we not ask ourselves whether or not our favorite primary candidate would have been among the brain dead 1,500! Oh yeah. Yes indeed. Absoluteamundo! We most definitely should be asking such questions.

Folks, to be informed is absolutely vital in this era of crashing economies, strange political alliances, and deteriorating physical and social environments. Study what the candidates say and look at their records. Oh, and avoid being anywhere near B-29 bombers at Christmas time.

Looking everywhere for the upside

By LUCAS KRAVNER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

e were all laid off at once. Three-quarters of the staff, all young editors at a recently launched Web site, congregated in a rolling-chair circle in our small office. Everything was so unexpected and immediate that the general response ranged from wide-eyed smiles and awkward laughs to unchecked tears. After a few minutes of broad explanations and muffled thank-yous, we nodded and started packing up our garbage bags.

We went to a nearby bar for some drinks and proper goodbyes. I noticed a chalk sign hawking "Burger and a beer, \$7.99. Monday through Friday 12 to 4 p.m." It was 4:05. "Hey, think I could get that burger and a beer deal still?" I asked the bartender hopefully. She'd seen us all come in—confused, bewildered, holding trash bags—so I figured that at the very least she'd take pity. "Yeah, sure," she said. "Just don't tell anyone."

But I did. I told everyone. My co-workers, my friends, my family. It was the highlight of that dark day—the deal of the century: a burger (and fries!) and a delicious premium draft for less than eight bucks, in Manhattan. Two months later (still unem-

We have only one area on our small island that is virtually untouched

and unscathed, and that is Marpi, and we need to do everything we

can to keep it that way. Any type of development in Marpi, whether

it is a homestead or a hotel or a first-class condominium complex,

should not be condoned. At the very least, a series of public hearings

We need to put our differences aside and come together to put a

halt to this project immediately. The homestead project has moved at lightning speed, something that is a rarity when it comes to our

government's way of doing business...all the more reason for us to

keep our guard up and leave no stone unturned when looking into

If you would like to assist in organizing against the destruction

of Marpi, please e-mail me at edpropst@gmail.com. You can also

call me at 483-7361. The fate of Marpi is in our hands. Let's work

is necessary to get the proper feedback from our people.

ployed, drastically more confused), I can still taste them. Some would say this is because I'm a fool—a hungry, burger-crazed madman—but I think I'm just going along with the trend: the widespread recessionary impulse to find absurd positives in the unlikeliest places.

Take, for example, the shark-infested waters off the coast of Florida: Now Slightly Less Deadly Than Before! Last month, Reuters reported that, according to George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File, shark attacks on humans are decreasing. Burgess reasons that people are going to the beach less, unable to afford trips to exotic locales and resorts where they might snorkel or scuba dive with a bunch of man-eating sharks. In this light, the recession is actually saving people. If the economy continues at this rate, there might be zero shark-related fatalities in 2009. Huzzah!

The silver lining covers more than abandoned beaches, though. A friend in Los Angeles told me that traffic there is down because people don't have jobs to drive to and from anymore. Been shopping recently? It's a great time for cheap TVs, other electronics and two-for-one deals on clothes! Newsweek has reported a steep drop in lobster prices, so now's a great time to cook that bisque you've been thinking about. Restaurant owners speculate that choking incidents in their establishments may be down because people can't afford to eat out. Midday reruns of "Family Matters" have never had higher viewership (at least, so I assume ... I only have, um, anecdotal evidence to support this claim.) All these things deserve marginally enthusiastic high-fives.

It makes sense that even as we reel from the recession's myriad negative effects, we're savoring the upside to the downturn. On the day I lost my job, that delicious deal on a burger and a beer somehow became my brain's safety net.

So let's embrace the fact that, along with the bankrupt banks, soaring unemployment and "For Sale" signs on every corner, there's one less shark-bitten surfer to mourn this year. Maybe we should celebrate with a burger and a beer.

Lucas Kravner is a writer and actor in New York City.

Ed Propst

together to save it!

this project.

via e-mail

stuff—or rather throwing the majority of it away into oversize

Letters to the Editor

Stop Marpi homestead project ASAP!

Dear concerned citizens of the CNMI: I drove up to Marpi this morning to see the homestead project firsthand. I had heard about it from friends and from reading about it, but I had to see it with my own eyes.

It took the wind out of me. I was shocked. Confused. Angry. But mostly saddened. How could this project have gotten this far without proper input from our community? Where were the public hearings on this?

As much as homesteads are a good thing for our people, why must it be a few hundred yards away from Suicide Cliff? Why must it be in the heart of Marpi?

We need to stop making this an issue about the haves versus the have-nots. Whether a homestead recipient builds a nice mansion or a modest home or a small tin house, why are we sacrificing the unspoiled beauty and sanctity of Marpi with any type of development?

What do our tour agents have to say about this? Why isn't MVA saying anything about this? What is stopping us from doing something about this?

Let us not forget how precious and scarce our land is here in Saipan.

Reconsider Marpi homestead plan

I have lived on Saipan for 16 years and seen lots of issues come and go. This is my first protest letter however.

One of my favorite spots on Saipan is the Marpi area, especially the area around Suicide Cliff. I was devastated the other day to see a large area bulldozed flat, apparently for a homestead, right where one of the great vista views looking south is and right where tourists going to Suicide Cliff must drive by. Not only will this development affect the scenic beauty of the area, but also the area has special spiritual and historical significance to our biggest tourism market: the Japanese. Think how the project will affect that as well.

Hey, I am all for homesteads. But why so close to a major tourist area? Right now, our only economy is tourism, yet with our tourism declining, we will build a major development spoiling one of the prettiest, historical and spiritual areas of Saipan? Why there? Why not somewhere more developed? Why near a tourist spot?

For example, why not work something out with the landowners of the abandoned garment factories to put homesteads there? This would have several positive results: bring families back to places like San Antonio and help revitalize these areas and not cut down any more trees or otherwise affect the beauty or historical value of Saipan. Or if that is not feasible, put some homesteads in a more developed, less touristy area. And if we are to build homesteads, why not do them properly, i.e., make a proper village out of them with a school, shopping area already planned out.

I believe the CNMI cannot afford to take action that will negatively detract from the beauty, historical, or spiritual significance of our islands, which is what brings the tourists here. Please, please reconsider.

David Banes

Mt. Tapochau, Saipan

REVERSE

From Page 10

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

12 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼77°



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Yesterday's Satellite Image

▲87° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87°

▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	≜ 88 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 60	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 79	▼ 52
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 66
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77	▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 59	₹43
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 70	▼ 52
Manila	Showers	≜ 86	₹76
Melbourne	Dreary	▲ 67	▼ 52
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲ 77	₹54
New York	Showers	▲ 43	₹36
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 67	₹50
Paris	Rain	▲ 55	▼ 48
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 73	₹53
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 66	▼ 53
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66	₹40
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 62	₹50
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 75	₹45
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 67	▼ 52
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 51	▼35

Tides Saipan Harbor 12:36 AM Today Low Tide: 0.3 Feet 6:42 AM Today High Tide: 2.0 Feet 1:13 PM Today Low Tide: 0.3 Feet 7:11 PM Today High Tide: 1.9 Feet

SAIPAN **GUAM** MA.IURO KOSRAE 170

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade wind convergence is producing a nearly continuous line of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across most of Micronesia from near Yap through Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to Majuro between 6N and 10N from 139E to 172E. A stationary front extends west-southwest from 25N139E to 22N130E. Overcast clouds and light rain with a few embedded showers are found up to 300 miles northwest of the front.

Su	nrise/Suns	et	đ.
Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	ij.
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	3
Friday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	E
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	ď.
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	
AND RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADD			

Moonrise/Moonset									
Today	5:17 PM	4:46 AM							
Thursday	6:11 PM	5:25 AM							
Friday	7:04 PM	6:06 AM							
Saturday	7:59 PM	6:47 AM							
Sunday	8:53 PM	7:32 AM							

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRÁVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and

private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1.7 Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota 12:30pm CO9601 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

Guam	-Narita	ı		
NW 73 NW 81	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily	

Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1.4.6

Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily

Guam-Nagova

Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am OZ 604 2:40am

OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7 Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2.6 Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5

Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7

Narita-Manila 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

ARRIVALS Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am **Guam-Saipan** CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1.2.3.4.7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5.6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily 10:20am CO9600 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily **Narita-Guam** Daily

NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily

Osaka-Saipan OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3.5.7

> Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily

> > Nagova-Guam

Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily

NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7

OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 **Busan-Saipan**

OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7 Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+11,5 **Guam-Rota** CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6

Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1.2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4.6

Manila-Palau CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5

Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

Hongkong-Incheon OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6

OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily Manila-Narita NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine

Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

FRF 102

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-Re	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sai FRE 100 Saipan-F	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
FRE 200 Rota-Gu	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
FRE 200 Guam-R o	9:50am ota	10:15am	Daily
FRE 300 Rota-Sai	•	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 300 Saipan-F		5:25pm	Daily
FRE 400 Rota-Gu FRE 400	6:00pm 1am 6:45pm	6:30pm 7:15pm	Daily Daily
Saipan-T	1.	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103 FRE 105 FRE 107 FRE 109* FRE 111*	7:30am 8:00am 8:40am 9:10am 10:45am	7:40am 8:10am 8:50am 9:20am 10:55am	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily

ETD **ETA** Frequency 1:00pm 1:10pm FRE 115 Daily FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily Daily FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting

flights to Rota or Guam**

7:05am 7:15am

FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily FRF 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily 3:00pm FRE 118 2:50pm FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122** 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily FRE 126 6:20pm 6:30pm Daily

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- www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Layoffs not an option for some businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Revenue may be down and the pressure to slash costs intense, but some companies say job cuts are not an option.

ASIAN MARKETS

HONG KONG

14,829.00

TOKYO

AUSTRALIA 3,654.70

own 41.70 (-1.13%)

JAKARTA

K. LUMPUR

SINGAPORE

BANGKOK

445.05

(-0.22%)

LEADING

INDICATORS

DOW

7,975.85

-41.74

S&P

835.48

-7.02

NASDAQ

1,606.71

-15.16

MONEY MARKET

Indonesian Rupiah 11.405.0000

South Korean Won 1,329.2000

1.4025

0.6809

1.2424

6.8385

0.7483

50.0350

100.5800

3.5785

1.7184

47.9050

1.5079

1.1364

33.4875

35.3850

Australian Dollar

British Pound

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Yuan

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen

Malaysian Ringgit

New Zealand Dollar

Philippine Peso

Singapore Dollar

Swiss Franc

Taiwan Dollar

Thailand Baht

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Companies that have avoided layoffs amid this recession are the exception, not the rule. Employers have cut 5.1 million jobs since the recession began, including 663,000 last month alone. But some are looking to shave costs while keeping their work forces intact, so that when the economy does turn around, they'll be ready to ratchet up production again.

Economists say that's a wise move.

"If you overshoot on the downside and lay off workers, it puts the company at a disadvantage when the economy comes back to life," said Sean Snaith, economics professor at the University of Central Florida.

Costco Wholesale Corp.'s profit is down 27 percent year-over-year, but the discount store has not laid anyone off, choosing instead to freeze hiring at its corporate offices. The only workers let go have been holiday seasonal hires.

The company says it recognizes that labor remains its most valuable—if costliest—resource.

"We're certainly sharpening our pencil everywhere we can," said Bob Nelson, Costco's vice president of financial planning and investor relations. Nelson couldn't recall any layoffs at Costco since the closing of some stores in the 1980s.

Other steps companies are taking to cut costs are not exactly harmless to workers. Chief among them: capping the number of hours employees can

work, cutting or freezing pay and suspending matching payments to 401(k) plans.

Casino operator Wynn Resorts is trimming pay and cutting back on retirement fund matches. Credit agency Equifax Inc. froze pay for all U.S. employees for 2009 and at some of its foreign offices as well.

A survey by job placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas this year found 71 percent of companies polled had laid off some workers. More than a quarter had implemented pay freezes or cuts Despite the alarming job losses nationwide, John Challenger, the firm's CEO, said it's more common now than in past recessions for companies to find other paths to savings than laying people off.

That's because many companies have concluded that layoffs could be costlier down the road. Employers who have laid people off have to find, hire and train new ones when the economy recovers. Workers with specialized skills or strong customer contacts aren't easily replaced.

GM and Segway unveil new two-wheeled urban vehicle

NEW YORK (AP)—A solution to the world's urban transportation problems could lie in two wheels not four, according to executives for General Motors Corp. and Segway Inc.

The companies announced Tuesday that they are working together to develop a two-wheeled, two-seat electric vehicle designed to be a fast, safe, inexpensive and clean alternative to traditional cars and trucks for cities across the world.

The Personal Urban Mobility and Accessibility, or PUMA, project also would involve a vast communications network that would allow vehicles to interact with each other, regulate the flow of traffic and prevent crashes from happening.

"We're excited about doing more with less," said Jim Norrod, chief executive of Segway, the Bedford, N.H.-based maker of electric scooters. "Less emissions, less dependability on foreign oil and less space."

The 300-pound prototype runs on a lithium-ion battery and uses Segway's characteristic two-wheel balancing technology, along with dual electric motors. It's designed to reach speeds of up to 35 miles-per-hour and can run 35 miles on a single charge.

The companies did not release a projected cost for the vehicle, but said ideally its total operating cost—including purchase price, insurance, maintenance and fuel—would total between one-fourth and one-third of that of the average traditional vehicle.



Mike Gansler, Director of Core Technology with Segway Inc., sits in a Personal Urban Mobility and Accessibility, or PUMA, project prototype vehicle in New York's Times Square on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Larry Burns, GM's vice president of research and development, and strategic planning, said the project is part of Detroit-based GM's effort to remake itself as a purveyor of fuel-efficient vehicles. If Hummer took GM to the large-vehicle extreme, Burns said, the PUMA takes GM to the other.

Ideally, the vehicles would also be part of a communications network that through the use of transponder and GPS technology would allow them to drive themselves. The vehicles would automatically avoid obstacles such as pedestrians and other cars and therefore never crash, Burns said.

World Bank: China's recovery could start this year

BEIJING (AP)—China is likely to emerge from its economic slump later this year, helping the rest of Asia stabilize and possibly rebound, the World Bank said Tuesday.

"A ray of hope may be emerging with signs of China's economy bottoming out by mid-2009," the bank said in a statement. "A recovery in China—fueled largely by the country's huge economic stimulus package—is likely to begin this year and take full hold in 2010, potentially contributing to the region's stabilization, and perhaps recovery."

China's economy—the

world's third-largest—should expand by 6.5 percent this year, though exports should shrink as Western markets continue to contract, the bank said in a report on Asian economies.

That's slower than its 9 percent growth last year, but still the strongest of any major economy in the world. Many Asian economies are already contracting and expected to shrink in 2009.

Beijing is trying to reduce reliance on trade with a 4 trillion yuan (\$586 billion) plan to pump money into the economy through higher public works spending in hopes of boosting domestic consumption.

The Washington-based World Bank said pressure for Chinese prices to rise is still low, leaving room for the government to cut interest rates or take other steps to fuel growth.

China's growth has plunged as global demand for its goods weakened, with exports falling 25.7 percent in February from a year earlier. Private sector analysts are forecasting growth as low as 5 percent this year, down from 2007's 13 percent—though still the fastest of any major country. The government's official target is 8 percent.

Govt cracks down on mortgage scams

WASHINGTON (AP)— Federal and state officials are cracking down on mortgage modification scams, accusing "criminal actors" of preying on desperate borrowers caught up in the nation's housing crisis.

Government officials said Monday that scammers are seeking to take advantage of borrowers in danger of default by charging them upfront fees of \$1,000 to \$3,000 for help with loan modifications that rarely, if ever, pay off.

The frauds often involve companies with official-sounding names designed to make borrowers think they are using the Obama administration's efforts to help modify or refinance 7 million to 9 million mortgages.

"If you are struggling to make your mortgage payment, or if you are facing foreclosure, stay away from anyone who says that they will save your home for money upfront," Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan told reporters in Washington.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fund manager hit with civil charge in Madoff fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's attorney general filed civil fraud charges Monday against a hedge fund manager who funneled \$2.4 billion to Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff without telling clients where their money was going. The complaint accuses J. Ezra Merkin, the former chairman of GMAC Financial Services, of telling a "panoply of lies" to give the impression that he had a sophisticated investment strategy, when in fact he was simply a middleman who handed most of his cash to Madoff. A majority of investors had no idea where their money really went until after Madoff's arrest in December, when Merkin sent a brief note informing them that their money was probably gone forever, the suit said.

Tribune could have gotten \$45M in Wrigley deal

SPRINGFIELD, III. (AP)—Tribune Co. would have received as much as \$45 million and a 5 percent stake in a leased Wrigley Field under a deal involving a state loan of \$300 million toward restoring the historic ballpark, a proposal found in state documents shows. A Nov. 19 memo released Monday night by the Illinois Finance Authority, marked "strictly confidential—for discussion purposes only," outlines a com-

plicated deal in which a new owner of the century-old stadium's tenant, the Chicago Cubs, would pay \$25 million a year for 30 years. But finance authority chairman William Brandt said Monday night that was simply what Tribune Co. wanted. The media company is trying to sell the Cubs and Wrigley.

Sun unmoored as acquisition talks hit standstill

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)— Without IBM Corp.'s \$7 billion takeover offer, Sun Microsystems Inc., a Silicon Valley rebel known for independence, is possibly alone again. Unless a new suitor somehow emerges, Sun will have to overcome the wobbly finances that forced it to shop itself around. Sun's shares tumbled 23 percent Monday to close at \$6.56, a day after talks between the corporate computing rivals fell apart. The two sides had been nearing an agreement before the weekend. But Sun balked at IBM's last price of \$9.40 per share, which had come down from earlier offers but still was about double Sun's stock price before word of the negotiations leaked last month. Sun canceled IBM's exclusive negotiating rights, and IBM withdrew its offer, people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. These people requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to disclose details of the talks.

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Nation

Big cuts seen for F-22, other big weapon programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation should stop pouring billions into futuristic, super-expensive F-22 jet fighters, pull the plug on new presidential helicopters and put the money into systems U.S. soldiers can use against actual foes, Defense Secretary Robert Gates declared Monday.

Major overhaul plans laid out by the Obama administration's Pentagon chief would slash several giant weapons programs—and thousands of civilian jobs that go with them. With recession unemployment rising, Congress may balk at many of the cuts in Gates' proposed \$534 billion budget for the coming year.

Still, despite all the talk of cuts, the total figure would rise from \$513 billion for 2009, and Gates spoke of using money more wisely, not asking for less.

Gates, a holdover from the Bush administration, said he is gearing Pentagon buying plans to the smaller, lower-tech battlefields the military is facing now and expects in coming years. He also said he hopes lawmakers will resist temptations to save outdated system that keep defense plants humming in their home districts.

The Pentagon, he said, wants to move away from both outdated weapons systems conceived in the Cold War and futuristic programs aimed at supersophisticated foes.

Gates said he would expand spending on equipment that targets insurgents, such as \$2 billion more on surveillance and reconnaissance equipment. That would include funding for 50 new Predator drones such as those that have rained



In this April 2, 2007 file image provided by the US Air Force, two U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor aircraft flying in trail behind a KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft after inflight refueling during a training mission off the coast of Florida, are shown.

down missiles on militants hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

"We must rebalance this department's programs in order to institutionalize and finance our capabilities to fight the wars we are in today and the scenarios we are most likely to face in the years ahead," he said.

Major programs facing cuts include the F-22 Raptor, the military's most expensive fighter plane at \$140 million apiece. An action movie come to life, sleek, fast and nearly invisible, the Raptor is ill-suited to deterring roadside bombs in Iraq or hunting insurgents who vanish into the Afghan mountains.

Gates says the Pentagon won't continue the F-22 program beyond 187 planes already planned. Bethesda,

Md.-based Lockheed, the nation's largest defense contractor, has said almost 95,000 jobs could be at stake.

Gates also said no to a new fleet of Marine One presidential helicopters—with a price tag of \$13 billion, more than double the original budget. He said new helicopters would be needed at some point but he wants time to figure out a better solution.

VA patient tests positive for HIV after mistakes

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—A Veterans Affairs patient who was among thousands treated with unsterilized equipment has tested positive for HIV, the first such case reported since the department warned veterans they could have been exposed to infectious diseases.

The VA previously reported that hepatitis had been found in 16 patients, but the agency cautioned there was no way to prove that the patients contracted the illnesses because of treatment at their facilities. In an e-mail late Friday, the agency said it was investigating "the possibility of such a relationship."

The VA earlier this year warned more than 10,000 veterans to get blood tests because they could have been exposed to contamination while getting colonoscopies in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Miami.

The endoscopic equipment in question was also used at an ear, nose and throat facility in Augusta, Ga. All three sites failed to properly sterilize the equipment between treatments.

The VA has said it does not yet know if veterans who were treated with the same kind of equipment at its other 150 hospitals may have been exposed to the same mistake before the department had a nationwide safety training campaign. An agency spokeswoman has said the VA is certain the mistake with the equipment was corrected nationwide by March 14.

Among 4-year-olds, 1 in 5 obese, study finds

CHICAGO (AP)—A striking new study says almost 1 in 5 American 4-year-olds is obese, and the rate is alarmingly higher among American Indian children, with nearly a third of them obese. Researchers were surprised to see differences by race at so early an age.

Overall, more than half a million 4-year-olds are obese, the study suggests. Obesity is more common in Hispanic and black youngsters, too, but the disparity is most startling in American Indians, whose rate is almost double that of whites

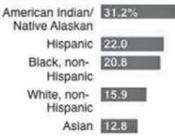
The lead author said that rate is worrisome among children so young, even in a population at higher risk for obesity because of other health problems and economic disadvantages.

"The magnitude of these differences was larger than we expected, and it is surprising to see differences by racial groups present so early in childhood," said Sarah Anderson, an Ohio State

Preschool obesity

A new study says 18 percent of preschoolers are obese, with higher percentages among most minorities.

Prevalence of obesity 4-year-olds, 2005



SOURCE: National Center

University public health researcher. She conducted the research with Temple University's Dr. Robert Whitaker.

Dr. Glenn Flores, a pediatrics and

public health professor at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, said the research is an important contribution to studies documenting racial and ethnic disparities in children's weight.

"The cumulative evidence is alarming because within just a few decades, America will become a 'minority majority' nation," he said. Without interventions, the next generation "will be at very high risk" for heart disease, high blood pressure, cancers, joint diseases and other problems connected with obesity, said Flores, who was not involved in the new research.

The study is an analysis of nationally representative height and weight data on 8,550 preschoolers born in 2001. Children were measured in their homes and were part of a study conducted by the government's National Center for Education Statistics. The results appear in Monday's Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

Salmonella found in central Calif. pistachio plant

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Federal officials confirmed Monday they found traces of salmonella in a central California pistachio processing plant that sparked a nationwide recall of the nut.

The Food and Drug Administration said state and federal inspectors discovered the bacteria in "critical areas" at Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc., the second-largest pistachio processor in the nation.

FDA officials also said they found

places at the facility where raw and roasted nuts could have become cross-contaminated with salmonella.

Setton Pistachio, which sells its nuts to Kraft Foods Inc. and 35 other wholesalers across the country, temporarily shut down after voluntarily recalling more than 2 million pounds of nuts last week.

The company expanded its recall on Monday to include all raw and roasted pistachios from its 2008 crop. A company spokeswoman did not immediately return messages seeking further details.

"The company is working closely with the FDA on this matter and is cooperating fully," Setton spokeswoman Fabia D'Arienzo said in a statement. "Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. is committed to quality products and consumer safety, and is taking aggressive action to prevent the need for any future recalls."

ACROSS THE NATION

Divorce filings accuse Nevada governor of affairs

RENO, Nev. (AP)—First lady Dawn Gibbons accuses Gov. Jim Gibbons in divorce papers of having extramarital affairs with a former Playboy magazine model and another woman to whom he sent hundreds of text messages last year. The Republican governor has been untruthful about his "infidelity" with the two women, his estranged wife says in a divorce filing, which was unsealed Monday by a court order in Washoe County Family Court. The governor has insisted both women were just friends. He filed for divorce last May, citing "incompatibility" with his wife. The couple had been married since 1986. Dawn Gibbons identified one of the women in the documents as Kathy Karrasch, who over several weeks in 2007 received more than 860 text messages from the governor on his state cell phone. The governor publicly apologized last year and reimbursed the state \$130. He denied the messages were "love notes."

Letter said to be from NY killer forecast slayings

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (AP)—The man who gunned down 13 people in an immigrant center thought police had harassed him for years, even spreading rumors about him and touching him in his sleep, and apparently was intent on killing people before returning "to the dust of the earth," according to a rambling letter in broken English mailed to a TV station the day of the massacre. Authorities did not immediately say Monday if they had verified the letter's authenticity, but the city of Binghamton said it was reviewing it as "evidence in the investigation." The letter was mailed to News 10 Now, in Syracuse, and postmarked Friday, the day Vietnamese immigrant Jiverly Wong stormed into the American Civic Association and went on a rampage before killing himself. "I am Jiverly Wong Shooting the people," the letter begins. The letter was dated March 18, more than two weeks before the shooting. It included photos of Wong smiling with two guns, a gun permit and his driver's license. The envelope carried three stamps: two Purple Hearts and a Liberty Bell.

Man nabbed after plane taken from Canada to Mo.

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP)—The suspected pilot of a plane stolen from Canada and flown into the U.S. trailed by fighter jets was captured Monday night near the rural stretch of road in Missouri where he landed. The single-engine, four-seat Cessna was intercepted by U.S. fighter jets over Wisconsin, where it prompted the evacuation of the state capitol, but kept flying south after the pilot failed to respond to radio calls and other signals. Mike Kucharek, spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado, said the Cessna 172 was stolen from Thunder Bay, Ontario, about 2:30 p.m. Monday. The pilot was flying erratically and didn't communicate with the fighter pilots from the Wisconsin Air National Guard who intercepted the plane at the Michigan-Wisconsin border, he said. The pilot had acknowledged seeing the F-16s but he didn't obey their nonverbal commands to follow them, Kucharek said.

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Asia

NKorea praises launch as diplomatic moves stumble

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's state media claimed Tuesday that a rocket launch seen overseas largely as a technical failure will propel the country to greatness, while moves at the United Nations to punish Pyongyang remained mired in a lack of consensus.

North Korea launched Sunday what it claims was a satellite that successfully entered orbit around Earth, defying international warnings that the move would violate U.N. resolutions and invite further censure. The United States and South Korea, which said the North was using the satellite claim to hide a ballistic missile test, say it failed to send the payload into orbit.

The communist country's main *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper, however, said the event heralded victory for its plan to become a powerful nation by 2012, the 100th anniversary of the birth of national founder Kim Il Sung.

The successful launch is "a historic event that sounded the cannon's roar of victory in building a 'great prosperous powerful nation," the newspaper said in a lengthy editorial carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"We should rush for the ultimate victory," the paper quoted North Korean leader Kim Jong II, the son of Kim II Sung, as saying.

In Washington, a top Pentagon of-

ficial on Monday dismissed the launch as a failure—both technologically and as an effort to market its missiles to other countries.

"Would you buy from somebody that had failed three times in a row and never been successful?" Gen. James Cartwright, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asked during a press briefing at the Pentagon.

The launch, Cartwright said, showed that North Korea had failed to master the midair thrust shift from one rocket booster to another, an integral part of ballistic missile technology.

President Barack Obama and other world leaders called the launch a prov-

ocation that cannot go unanswered, but the U.N. Security Council was so divided it didn't even issue a preliminary statement of condemnation after an emergency session Sunday.

Diplomats privy to continuing talks in New York said China, Russia, Libya and Vietnam voiced concerns about further alienating and destabilizing North Korea. China, the North's closest ally, and Russia hold veto power as permanent members and could dilute any response.

The 15-member council did not schedule a meeting Monday on North Korea. But the five veto-holding permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—

met privately with Japan for 1 1/2 hours during the afternoon.

No agreement was reached on a response, and the six ambassadors agreed to consult their capitals and meet again Tuesday, probably in the afternoon.

The firing of the three-stage rocket demonstrated only one minor victory: It went twice as far as one launched in 1998. It is still unclear what data North Korea's military and scientists might glean from their latest effort.

U.S. and South Korean officials said the entire rocket ended up in the ocean. South Korea said the second stage splashed down about 1,900 miles (3,100 kilometers) from the launch site.

Group: Officials linked to Philippine death squads

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police officers and government officials were involved with death squads responsible for killing more than 800 people in the southern Philippines, an international human rights group said Tuesday.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said its investigation showed 814 suspected drug dealers, petty criminals and street children were killed in extrajudicial executions by death squads between 1998 and February 2009 in Davao City, with victims as young as 14. Thirty-three killings were reported in the city in January alone.

"The hundreds of targeted killings in Davao City in recent years are clearly not random events but the result of planned hits by a 'death squad' that involves police officers and local officials," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch.

"The police consistently fail to bring the perpetrators to justice, while the local government cheers from the sidelines," said Roth.

The group urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to investigate the killings and hold the perpetrators accountable. No comment was immediately available from police and officials on the report.

In a hearing on the killings conducted by the Commission on Human Rights last month, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, known for his tough anti-crime campaign, denied the killings were perpetrated by death squads and said gang rivalries were to blame.

The human rights report said Duterte has attempted to justify the killing of suspected criminals as a deterrent on crime that will make the city safer, but police statistics show that crime has increased 219 percent over the last decade.

Human Rights Watch warned the killings have expanded beyond the southern island of Mindanao to central Cebu city, the Philippines' second-largest metropolis.

The group said it investigated 28 killings and obtained details and information from relatives and friends of death squad members, as well as journalists, community activists and government officials.

Human Rights Watch said most death squad members were former communist New People's Army insurgents who surrendered to the government or young men who were targeted and joined the group to avoid being killed.

Pakistan wants 'unconditional' aid to fight terror



SUMMER FUN

Filipino children living at a slum area play in plastic pools during a children's bathing party in Manila, Philippines on Monday, April 6, 2009. Many poor Filipinos head to public beach areas or settle for small improvised pools to beat the summer heat.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari told two top U.S. envoys that his country needs "unconditional support" in a range of areas to defeat the al-Qaida and Taliban fighters threatening its survival.

The sentiments reflect Pakistani dissatisfaction with American pledges to tack conditions onto billions in expected aid funds designed to help Pakistan end militancy in its borders.

Zardari met with U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff late Monday, according to a press release from the president's office that described the encounter. Holbrooke was due to address reporters Tuesday in a late morning news conference along with the Pakistani foreign minister.

The envoys' visit is the first by American officials since President Barack Obama laid out his strategy for reinvigorating the Afghan war effort last month. It also came on the heels of a threat by a senior Pakistani Taliban commander to carry out two suicide bombings a week unless the U.S. stops its drone-fired missile strikes in Pakistan's militant-infested northwest region bordering Afghanistan.

Obama has urged Pakistan's government to take the terrorist fight seriously, but has said his pledges for billions in increased aid to the country will come with unspecified conditions and measures to judge the performance of the Muslim nation in the fight against militants.

That has irked Pakistani officials and underscored a trust deficit exacerbated by U.S. concerns that Pakistan's top spy agency is maintaining links the Taliban and other groups involved in attacks on American and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

China in bold move on volatile health care issue

BEIJING (AP)—China announced Monday the outlines of a thorough reform of the health care system that pledges to provide improved services to all citizens by 2020, tackling a critical issue that has become a major source of public dissatisfaction.

While many details of the plan remain unclear, the announcement underscored the communist government's need to at least appear to be making progress on the issue. Public health care has been underfunded for years, and the high cost and poor availability of services are among the biggest complaints of the Chinese public.

A serious illness can wipe out a

family's life savings and the need to set aside earnings for potential medial costs is considered a major drag on the domestic consumption that the government so badly needs to boost to raise the flagging economy.

Credited with making huge inroads against infectious diseases and providing basic free care to most citizens, China's soviet-style centralized public health system was largely dismantled in the 1980s amid economic reforms and a growing taste for privatization. Seeing a doctor became far more expensive and the gap between rural and urban health care began to grow, undercutting attempts to boost rural incomes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 attacks kill at least 7, injure 60 in India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Three explosive attacks struck India's restive northeastern state of Assam, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens Monday, a day before an election campaign visit by the prime minister. A spokeswoman for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the trip would go ahead despite the attacks, believed to be the work of the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom. "This is a coordinated attack" by the militant group, said G.M. Srivastava, the state's top police official. The blasts occurred on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the United Liberation Front of Asom. which has been linked to many acts of terrorism in Assam and usually stages attacks around this time of year.

Professor beaten for honoring ousted China leader

BEIJING (AP)—A 75-year-old retired professor in China said Tuesday that he was beaten up for commemorating the death of a reformist communist leader ousted for sympathizing with the 1989 Tiananmen Square protesters. Sun Wenguang said a group of five men attacked him Saturday while he was trying to pay his respects to Zhao Ziyang, the former general secretary of the ruling Communist Party. The weekend marked "Qingming"—grave-sweeping day—an annual festival where Chinese honor

the dead. Sun said he was followed by a police car on Saturday when he went to visit a memorial honoring Chinese martyrs. He said he carried five small banners, one of which said "mourning for the martyr Zhao Ziyang." He said he was attacked when he entered the cemetery and was pushed off the edge of the path, which was 6.5 feet (2 meters) high. He was then beaten and "kicked like a football" for more than 10 minutes.

Khmer Rouge defendant: US policy benefited regime

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)— The former chief of the Khmer Rouge's most notorious prison said his group would not have risen to power in the

1970s if it weren't for the policies of former U.S. President Richard Nixon and his top diplomat, Henry Kissinger. Kaing Guek Eav (pronounced Gang Geck EE-UU), better known as Duch, made the comments Monday before Cambodia's genocide tribunal during testimony charting his personal journey to revolution. He also said that he realized early on that the Khmer Rouge would end up as a disaster for Cambodia. Duch's remarks on U.S. influence in the region were part of his account of the years before the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 regime. They echoed U.S. critics such as Noam Chomsky, who charged that Washington's policies ensnared Cambodia in the Vietnam War, destabilizing the country to the point that the Khmer Rouge could take over.

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World

Strong quake in Italy kills over 150, wounds 1,500

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—Rescue workers using bare hands and buckets searched frantically for students believed buried in a wrecked dormitory after Italy's deadliest quake in nearly three decades struck this medieval city before dawn Monday, killing more than 150 people, injuring 1,500 and leaving tens of thousands homeless. The 6.3magnitude earthquake buckled both ancient and modern buildings in and around L'Aquila, snuggled in a valley surrounded by the snowcapped Apennines' tallest peaks.

It also took a severe toll on the centuries-old castles and churches in the mountain stronghold dating from the Middle Ages, and the Culture Ministry drew up a list of landmarks that were damaged, including collapsed bell towers and cupolas.

The quake, centered near L'Aquila about 70 miles northeast of Rome, struck at 3:22 a.m., followed by more than a dozen aftershocks.

Firefighters with dogs and a crane worked feverishly to reach people trapped in fallen buildings, including a dormitory of the University of L'Aquila where a half- dozen students were believed trapped inside.

After nightfall Monday, rescuers found a scared-looking dog with a bleeding paw in the half-collapsed dorm. Relatives and friends of the missing stood wrapped in blankets or huddled under umbrellas in the rain as rescuers found pieces of furniture, photographs, wallets and diaries, but none of the missing. The body of a male student was found during the daylight hours.



PARIS (AP)—Dozens of doctors working in teams over 30 hours performed the world's first simultaneous partial-face and double-hand transplant during the weekend, Paris' Public Hospital authority said Monday.

The authority described the recipient as a 30-year-old burn victim. The man, whose name was not released, was injured in a 2004 accident that left him with scars "preventing any social life," it said.

The authority's statement said the operation, performed over Saturday and Sunday at the Henri Mondor hospital in the Paris suburb of Creteil, was the world's sixth partial-face transplant but the first to include hands as well.

In a first, the upper half of the man's face, including the scalp, forehead, nose, ears and upper and lower eyelids, were transplanted. Previous facial transplants have attached the lower part of the face.

The man also received a new set of hands, attached above the wrist, the statement said. The surgery succeeded in reconnecting all the relevant nerves, tendons, arteries and veins.

The organs were harvested from a brain-dead donor with his family's consent. The transplant patient had been on the waiting list for the organs for one year, the authority said.



People line-up for a meal in a tent-camp set up on a rugby field in Paganica, after a major earthquake hit L 'Aquila and nearby towns in central Italy, Monday, April 6, 2009.

"We managed to come down with other students but we had to sneak through a hole in the stairs as the whole floor came down," said Luigi Alfonsi, 22, his eyes filling with tears and his

hands trembling. "I was in bed—it was like it would never end as I heard pieces of the building collapse around me."

Elsewhere in town, firefighters reported pulling a 21-year-old woman and a 22-year-man from a pancaked five-story apartment building where many students had rented flats.

Amid aftershocks, survivors hugged one another, prayed quietly or tried to call relatives. Residents covered in dust pushed carts of clothes and blankets that they had thrown together before fleeing their homes.

Slabs of walls, twisted steel supports, furniture and wire fences were strewn in the streets, and gray dust was everywhere. A body lay on the sidewalk, covered by a white sheet.

Residents and rescue workers hauled debris from collapsed buildings by hand or in a bucket brigade. Firefighters pulled a woman covered in dust from her four-story home. Rescue crews demanded quiet as they listened for signs of life from inside.

RAI television showed rescue workers gingerly pulling a man clad only in his underwear from a crumbled building. He embraced one of his rescuers and sobbed loudly as others placed a jacket around his shoulders. Although shaken and covered in dust, the man was able to walk.

Some 10,000 to 15,000 buildings were either damaged or destroyed, officials said. L'Aquila Mayor Massimo Cialente said about 100,000 people were homeless. It was not clear if his estimate included surrounding towns.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi said in a TV interview that more than 150 people were killed and more than 1,500 were injured. He had already declared a state of emergency, freeing federal funds for the disaster, and canceled a trip to Russia.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico arrests US man accused of raping 19 women

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)-A Texas man has been arrested for allegedly raping 19 women across the border in the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez, authorities said Monday. Jorge Alberto Mendez, 42, was arrested Saturday while trying to cross into Mexico from El Paso, Texas, where he lives, said regional Deputy Attorney General Alejandro Pariente. Pariente said the investigation began in April 2008 with the rape of a 15-year-old girl. Similar cases were subsequently reported. One of the victims managed to write down the license plate number of her assailant, which eventually led to Mendez's arrest, Pariente said. Ciudad Juarez, a battleground in Mexico's drug war, has a history of violence against women.

Iran reform candidate says open to **US** negotiations

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The leading reformist candidate in upcoming Iranian presidential elections said Monday that if elected, he would negotiate with the U.S but that Iran would not give up its nuclear program Speaking in his first news conference since declaring his candidacy, Mir Hossein Mousavi said if Barack Obama's administration changes the U.S.'s policies toward Iran, Mousavi would be open to talks. But, in comments that echo other top Iranian officials, Mousavi said the country is still waiting to see how Obama's administration differs from that of his predecessor. "We will definitely negotiate with them. Why not?" Mousavi said. "Peace with any country would benefit our interests." The Obama administration has said it wants to engage Iran, a different tactic than that of the Bush administration which sought to isolate the country. But Obama has also said that Iran's nuclear and missile programs pose a threat.

South African prosecutors drop case against Zuma

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Prosecutors dropped their corruption case Monday against Jacob Zuma, clearing the way for him to become South Africa's next president but leaving behind questions that could haunt the next government. Zuma, a colorful character and well-known champion of the poor, is the presidential candidate for the governing African National Congress in April 22 elections. He is almost certain to win given the party's dominance. Hundreds of Zuma supporters reveled in the streets after prosecutors said they would not pursue—now or in the future-accusations Zuma accepted bribes to thwart an investigation into wrongdoing by a French arms company involved in a massive weapons deal in the late 1990s.

Obama to Muslim world: No US war with Islam

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Declaring the U.S. "is not and never will be at war with Islam," President Barack Obama worked Monday to mend frayed ties with NATO ally Turkey and improve relations with the larger Muslim world.

Obama acknowledged stillraw tensions over the Iraq war but said Muslims worldwide have little in common with terrorists such as al-Qaida and have much to gain in opposing them. Reaching out, he also spoke of Muslim connections in his own background.

"We seek broader engagement based upon mutual interest and mutual respect," Obama said in a speech to Turkey's Parliament.

Obama

It was his first visit to a predominantly Islamic nation as president, and he struck a balance between extending a hand to Muslims in general and discussing Turkey's central role in helping to bring stability to a post-war Iraq and the wider Middle East.

"Our partnership with the Muslim

world is critical, not just in rolling back the violent ideologies that people of all faiths reject but also to strengthen opportunity for all its people," he said. He portrayed terrorist groups such as al-Qaida as extremists far removed from the vast majority of Muslims.

Turkey has NATO's largest Army after the U.S., but relations between the two countries soured after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which the Turks opposed. Turkey barred U.S. forces from going through its country to attack Iraq.

Now, however, since Obama is with-

drawing troops, Turkey has become more cooperative.

Sharing parts of its southern border with Iraq, Turkey's role in maintaining security will be pivotal after U.S. combat troops are gone, despite the Turks' lingering problems with Kurdish militants in northern Iraq. Turkey also has important leverage with both Afghanistan and Pakistan and has served as a broker between Israel and several Arab states.

"Turkey's greatness lies in your ability to be at the center of things. This is not where East and West divide—this is where they come together," Obama said.

He acknowledged hard feelings over Iraq. "I know that strain is shared in many places where the Muslim faith is practiced. So let me say this as clearly as I can: The United States is not and will never be at war with Islam."

Series of bombings in Baghdad Shiite areas kill 37

BAGHDAD(AP)—Angerboiled over in Baghdad streets at Iraqi soldiers and police after they failed to prevent a stunning series of coordinated bombings across the city Monday that left 37 dead and more than 100 wounded. Iraq's government blamed the attacks on supporters of Saddam Hussein "in cooperation with the al-Qaida terrorist organization" and suggested the blasts were timed for Tuesday's anniversary of the founding of the late dictator's Baath party.

The attacks, which one Interior Min-

istry official called the worst breach of security in Baghdad this year, occurred as the U.S. military is drawing down its forces in the capital. Some Iraqis pondered whether their own soldiers and police can maintain order if Shiite-Sunni violence flares again once the Americans have gone. At the site of one blast, in the former militia stronghold of Sadr City, angry crowds hurled stones at Iraqi soldiers in a display of bitterness that they failed to prevent a car bomb from entering a busy market, where it exploded.

"We see nothing from them, they are useless," complained Mohammed Latif, a government employee who lives in Sadr City. "They are responsible for what happened today. They are just sitting at the checkpoint doing nothing and after that they open fire randomly."

According to police, none of the six blasts claimed more than 12 lives, far fewer than the 30 people who died in a March 8 suicide attack at Baghdad's police academy and the 33 killed in a suicide bombing two days later at a market on the outskirts of the city.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 17

In Loving Memory of †CRISTIN CABRERA DUENAS

Better known as "Ting"

Born to life on October 15, 1953 and called by his Creator on April 02, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Paternal Grandparents : †Jose Muna Duenas

†Martina Villagomez Duenas

Maternal Grandparents : †Vicente Taisague Cabrera

† Soledad Campus Camacho

Father : †Jesus Villagomez Duenas
Mother : †Ernesta Cabrera Duenas
Father-in-law : †Pedro Hocog Santos
Mother-in-law : †Rita Reyes Santos
Brother-in-laws : †Francisco R. Santos
†Vicente Juan R. Santos

†Ricardo R. Santos †Pedro R. Santos

Survived by his:

Common-law wife : Joaquina Reyes Santos

Children and Families:

Erica Santos (Toricah, Kaylanie, Joaquin)

Ernesta S. Duenas / Frank Mizutani (Francisco Jr.)

Cristin Jr. S. Duenas

Maynard S. Duenas / Maria Mendoza Ryan S. Duenas / Anna Guerrero (Ryan)

Darrel S. Duenas Joshua S. Duenas Tanya S. Duenas Jolene S. Duenas

Brothers & Sisters and Families

Joaquin C. / Maria B. Duenas Maria D. / Joaquin T. Salas Remedio D./ Francisco M.Diaz Consolacion D. / David P. Sablan Vicente C. / Anna DLG. Duenas Rosalia D. / Jesus I. Sablan Jose C. / Verna T. Duenas Soledad D. / Jose A. Reyes

Brothers / Sisters-In-Law and Families:

Milagro R. Santos / Jose San Agustin Jose R. Santos / Margarita Tenorio Edward R. Santos / Rosita R. Santos

Francisco R. Santos Jesus R. Santos

Petra R. Santos / Frank Palacios

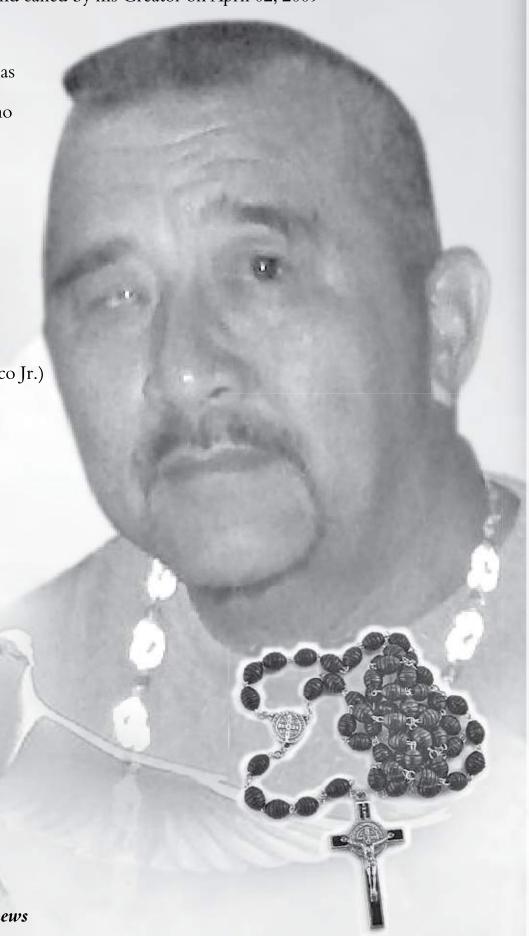
Vicente R. Santos Lucy Q. Santos

He will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30pm at his residence in Chalan Kiya. On Monday, April 13, 2009, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm and followed by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Joaquina Reyes Santos, Children and Family Reyes-Santos and Cabrera-Duenas Families



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Campus Life

Sobolewski speaks truth to power

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Frank Sobolewski, the outgoing faculty senate president at the Northern Marianas College, shared with *Saipan Tribune* the important role he played as the group's leader. As for his colleagues at the NMC faculty, he has only the following words: Speak and pursue the truth.

Saipan Tribune: How long have you been a faculty senate president and were you appointed or elected to the post?

Answer: I have been the faculty senate president since February 2007. I was elected in 2007, and re-elected in 2008. My term will end on May 19, 2009. I am ineligible to serve a third consecutive term as faculty senate president.

ST: What motivated you to accept and lead the faculty of NMC?

A: A sense of duty to serve the faculty, the students, and the people of the Commonwealth. I acquired this sense of duty as a result of teaching for 11 and a half years at the NMC Rota instructional site, and for almost 10 years there as the Academic Coordinator and the Academic Advisor for the students.

ST: Is there any particular role you play for your col-

leagues at the college?

A: My major role is to convey information to those who need it when they need it. In this regard, some of my colleagues at NMC Rota said that I was the glue that held NMC Rota together. I would like to have the same role at NMC Saipan. This is not the same thing as being the NMC president or the NMC Rota campus administrator. This role needs a person who has daily front-line contact with students, staff, and faculty.

ST: What major challenges have you encountered throughout your term and how did you handle them?

A: The major challenge is to work with faculty, staff, and administrators who have different viewpoints on policy matters. I experienced this also at NMC Rota, so doing this at NMC Saipan is nothing new for me. In doing this, I try to solve problems and disagreements by thoroughly researching issues, and presenting information accurately and completely to others.

ST: In these difficult times for NMC's accreditation, coupled with "controversies," how do you lead the faculty group?

A: I seek to lead with knowledge, accuracy, clarity, patience, and respect. Sometimes in the excitement of the moment I fall short in the standard of respect

that I would like to maintain. I learned the importance of respect in the local culture during my 16 and a half years on Rota.

ST: What are the most challenging issues and concerns the present NMC faculty is experiencing? How are you addressing it?

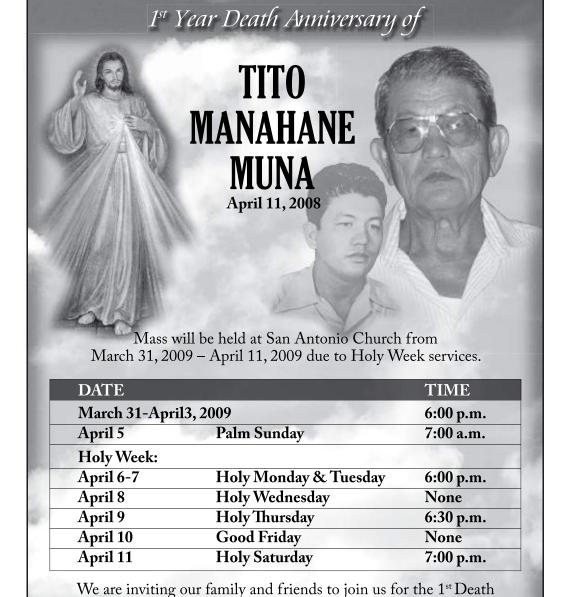
A: The biggest challenge is to restore morale among faculty and staff. The NMC administration often uses the Chamorro term "Familian NMC," but we are not a family. We are divided. There is insufficient respect for each other at all levels of NMC: the Board of Regents, the administration, the faculty, and staff.

ST: What would you consider as your major accomplishments in the Senate faculty?

A: My major accomplishment is nominating and appointing faculty members to the NMC Budget and Finance Committee, the College Council, and the Planning, Program Review and Outcomes Assessment Committee who have performed admirably in helping NMC fully satisfy the deficiencies that were cited in the accreditation letters of Jan. 31, 2007, and Jan, 31, 2008, that put NMC on probation and on show-cause status, respectively.

ST: Any message to the college management, Board of Regents, students, and the successor to your post?

A: My message to the college community is to pursue the truth always.



Anniversary of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and uncle, Tito

Manahane Muna. Thank you!

From: Erlinda Ellaga Muna and Family



SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 19

Life & Style

Fawcett treated for cancer's spread to liver

is being treated for anal cancer that has spread to her liver and has been hospitalized for a complication from a routine treatment, a producer who worked with the actress and her doctor said Monday.

In separate phone interviews with The Associated Press, Fawcett's producer and her doctor said that Fawcett is in a Los Angeles hospital, recovering from complications from a medical procedure in Germany, and is "not on death's door," as the producer put it.

"She had a minor procedure. That procedure led to a small amount of bleeding into a muscle in her abdominal wall," which created a hematoma—a sac of blood that caused pressure and pain, said her Los Angeles cancer special-

NEW YORK (AP)—Farrah Fawcett ist, Dr. Lawrence Piro. It was "a simple procedure" and a standard one, although Fawcett has also pursued experimental treatments in Germany, he added.

> "She's on the mend and will be going home very shortly," said her producer, Craig Nevius. "She's doing fantastic. Her fight goes on. ... She's not going anywhere anytime soon."

> However, confirmation that the cancer had spread to such a distant site was dire news. The 62-year-old "Charlie's Angels" star was diagnosed with anal cancer in 2006, and originally was treated at The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center with chemotherapy and radiation-not surgery as some have reported, Nevius said.

She was declared in remission on Feb 2, 2007, but three months later, scans

showed "not only had it recurred, it metastasized to her liver," Nevius said.

The latest treatment in Germany tried to address the cancer's spread to that organ, he said.

Nevius would not say where in Germany she was being treated, just that it was a clinic affiliated with some hospitals. He also would not give details on her treatments there, but said media reports that she was getting stem cell treatments were false.

"It's never had anything to do with stem cells," or alternative treatments such as shark cartilage, coffee enemas or unproven "detoxification" diets, Nevius said.

"It's much more scientific than that. It's not a fringe treatment," he said, and the doctors have "multiple, multiple degrees."

An upcoming documentary on which Fawcett has worked for several years, "A Wing and a Prayer," co-produced with Nevius and others, will air on NBC soon and give details, he said.

After the procedure in Germany, Piro said Fawcett flew back to Los Angeles because she was eager to go home. In a statement released earlier, Piro said Fawcett was using a wheelchair because it was painful for her to walk. "That pain, which was coming from the hematoma, had nothing directly to do with the cancer," Piro said.

"She remains in good spirits with her usual sense of humor," he added. "She's been in great shape her whole life and has an incredible resolve and an incredible resilience."



Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami in this Aug. 29, 2004, file photo.



JOHN EDWARD UNTALAN

April 13, 1965 - March 31, 2009

Beloved son, cherished brother, devoted husband and loving daddy.

John Edward Untalan of San Jose, Tinian and formerly of Portland, Oregon, lovingly known as "Johnny U" passed away into the loving hands of our Heavenly Father on Tuesday, March 11, 2009 at the

In his passing, he is now reunited with his:

†Jesus Cruz Untalan Maternal Grandparents: †Edward and †Vera Schmid Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Adriano Untalan and †Elena Cruz Untalan

He will be lovingly remembered by his:

Gladyliza Manguera Untalan Children: Marisa D. Untalan Mariah D. Untalan John Jordan D. Untalan Jesus Roberto M. Untalan Mary Katherine M. Untalan Joseph Thomas M. Untalan Mother: Shirley M. Untalan Sisters:

Dan & Elaina Untalan Weimer Ian & Jennifer Weimer (Brycen & Rylin) Mike & Juanita Untalan Lydon Jake & Lindsay Lydon, Jessica & Matt Nelson, Graham & Max Lydon Chris & Patricia Untalan Colt Matthew & Beth Colt, Jonathan Colt

Debra Untalan McIntyre Cassie McIntyre (Kaylee) Michael & Lucinda Untalan Giacchero Kimberly, Katie, & Kameron Giacchero Joal David & Rita Cabrera Untalan

Bryan Dela Cruz & Teresa Condif Anthony & Eva Dela Cruz Wiltshire Byron Dela Cruz & Jolen Lizama (Byron Jr., Bryan, B.J., & Blane) Parents-in-law: Roberto & Belen Manguera Brothers-in-law

> Henry & Teresita Manguera Gene Robert Manguera Aeron Nicholas Manguera Earl Reuben & Raquel Manguera

VIEWING SCHEDULE

April 09, 2009 (Thursday)

& Spouses:

Viewing At Borja Funeral Home San Jose, Saipan 12:00pm-2:00pm

April 10, 2009 Departure To Tinian (From Borja Funeral Home (Friday) to Freedom Air to Tinian Health Center

10:00 am (Monday)

April 13, 2009 Viewing and Last Respects San Jose Church, Tinian at 7 am Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am

Viewing and last respects Ada's Mortuary, Inc. Guam 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

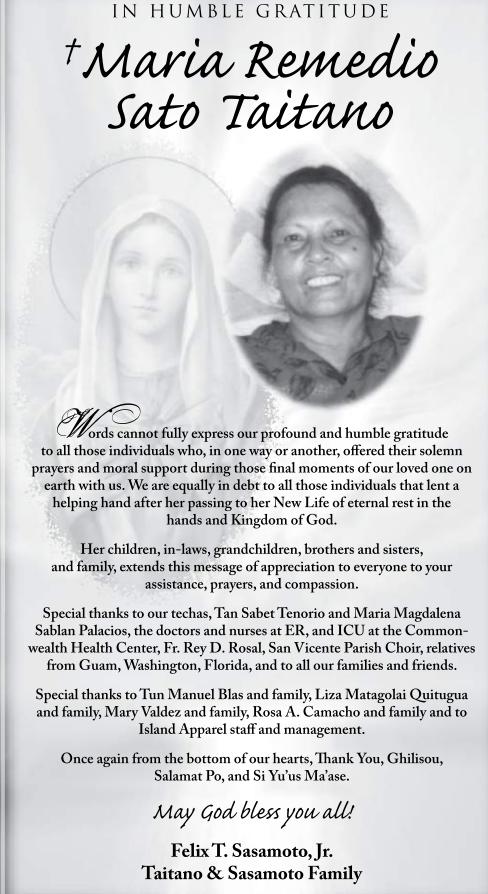
Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 8:00pm at San Jose Church, Tinian.

His remains will be flown to Guam for cremation after the viewing and Mass on Tinian. Please join us in prayers. God bless us all.

> Thank You Maraming Salamat Po, Dangkulo Na Sl Yu'us Ma'ase

> > The Family

Borja Funeral Homes Tel.: 235-6516



Chris Brown enters not guilty plea in beating case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown has pleaded not guilty Monday to threatening and assaulting his girlfriend, fellow music superstar Rihanna. The 19-year-old R&B singer appeared in a Los Angeles courtroom alongside his lawyer, Mark Geragos. Brown entered his plea, speaking in a soft voice, while his mother sat in the first row, red-eyed.

He was charged in March by Los Angeles County prosecutors with felony assault likely to cause great bodily injury and making criminal threats. He was arrested nearly a month earlier after police said he was involved in an early morning altercation with a woman who identified the "Run It!" singer as her attacker.

Court records list Brown's victim as "Robyn F." Rihanna's real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty.

The 21-year-old "Umbrella" singer was represented by attorney Donald Etra, who said after the hearing that the singer is in "fine spirits" and spending time with her family in Barbados.

Etra also said Rihanna is hoping that a deal can be worked out before a preliminary hearing or trial in the case, but that she will testify if required to.

"She would be pleased if this was over quickly," Etra said.

Etra said Brown's plea was "totally expected."

If convicted, Brown could be sentenced to probation or nearly five years in prison.

Neither side has publicly addressed Brown and Rihanna's relationship since the incident.

But there has been discernible fallout and backlash since



Chris Brown, right, and his attorney Mark Geragos, left, appear during his arraignment on two felony charges, at the Los Angeles County Criminal Courts in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, April 6, 2009.

Brown's arrest.

Neither singer performed at the Grammy Awards hours after the alleged beating, and both were also no-shows for the Kids' Choice Awards show held March 28.

Sponsors have stopped using Brown, some radio stations have stopped playing his music and some broadcasters have even started playing an anti-Chris Brown song created by the little-known dance group Smoke Jumpers.

Brown left the courthouse with his mother, two bodyguards and an entourage. On his way out, he had to walk through a phalanx of cameras. He was picked up by a car in front of the courthouse.

Geragos offered no comment and quickly left the courthouse with his client.

Keith livid about Rolling Stone story by Hawke

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Ethan Hawke might want to avoid crossing paths with Toby Keith in the near future.

The country star lit into the actor for an article Hawke wrote in the new issue of Rolling Stone about Kris Kristofferson. In it, Hawke refers to a blowup Kristofferson had with an unnamed country star back in 2003 that sounds a lot like Toby Keith.

But a furious Keith, speaking backstage at the Academy of Country Music Awards, said it wasn't true, and added

that Hawke did not name him in the story because he did not want to face him later.

"I don't know Ethan Hawke. Ethan Hawke wanted to do some kind Keith of superficial Roll-

ing Stone article. And he did everything he could to make his story the greatest story ever in Rolling Stone," Keith said. "And it was a fictitious (expletive) lie. O.K?

"He didn't even call me by my name. ... He called Norah Jones, Ray Charles, everybody else by name. Willie (Nelson), Kris (Kristofferson). Why didn't he call my name? Why didn't he say Toby Keith walked through and said this (expletive)? Right? You know why. You know why. You know as good as anybody why. He didn't want to (expletive) deal with the aftermath."

In the story, Hawke claimed he witnessed the confrontation backstage at Nelson's tribute concert for his 70th birthday at the Beacon Theatre in New York. The article does not name Keith but says it was a country singer who "had a monster hit about bombing America's enemies back into the stone age." In 2002, Keith had the song "Courtesy of the Red, White & Blue (The Angry American)"

that threatened retribution for the 9/11 attacks.

Hawke said the argument began with the "Star" telling Kristofferson: "None of that lefty (expletive) out there tonight, Kris.'

Hawke said Kristofferson then angrily confronted and asked him if he had ever served in the military.

"Have you ever killed another man? Huh? Have you ever taken another man's life and then cashed the check your country gave you for doing it? No, you have not, so shut

> the (expletive) up," Hawke recounted Kristofferson as saying. "Youdon't know what the hell you are talking about."

A spokeswoman for Hawke did not immediately return

seek-

ing comment. A Rolling Stone spokeswoman said that the magazine fully stands by the story and Hawke's reporting.

a message

Keith directed his anger Sunday not only at Hawke but at a reporter from the Tennessean who wrote about the Hawke article and asked Keith about it backstage.

Kristofferson, in a statement, said he did not recall the incident and tried to be diplomatic to all sides.

"I would like to state for the record that I am friends with Ethan Hawke, Toby Keith and Tennessean reporter Peter Cooper. Although I do not remember the events at Willie's birthday party as reported in Rolling Stone, what does it matter?" he asked. "That was six years ago. I spoke to Ethan before I put out my statement and thanked him for the beautiful story he wrote for Rolling Stone and I also told him I did not recall the incident at Willie's birthday party. This is the last statement I will put out about this nonsense."

Underwood, Swift, Hough: Women rule the ACMs

women of country have taken the wheel.

Carrie Underwood captured entertainer of the year Sunday night at the Academy of Country Music Awards, winning the top honor that has eluded women for nearly a decade, while Taylor Swift won album of the year and Julianne Hough snagged top new artist.

Country music's boys' club was adjourned for the year when Underwood broke Kenny Chesney's four-year win streak and became the first woman to hold the title since the Dixie Chicks in 2000. The significance wasn't lost on the 26-year-old superstar.

"I accepted that award on behalf of myself and my fans, but also on behalf of other women who came before me that kicked butt but never got the recognition they deserved," Underwood said. "I can't wait (for) the day, which I hope is in the very near future, where having females in the category is no big deal whatsoever.'

In 39 years of recognizing a top entertainer, the academy has granted the honor to a woman seven times, including Underwood. The others were Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, Shania Twain and the Dixie Chicks. Each won once.

Chesney, who missed the chance to tie Alabama for most entertainer of the year awards, kissed Underwood as she walked up to accept the honor.

"He told me he was proud of me," said Underwood, who's enioved astounding success since winning "American Idol" in 2005 with eight No. 1 country hits including the signature single, "Jesus Take the Wheel."

Swift, another woman dominating not only country music but the entire industry, won album of the year for her sophomore disc "Fearless." Both of Swift's albums have topped the 3 million mark—a rare feat today. She's connected with fans both young and old for her intensely personal songs, which she writes usually on her own or with a co-writer.

Backstage, Swift told reporter that she "obsessed" over making "Fearless."

"I labored over this album for two years," she said. "The fact that you can write songs in your Jamey Johnson, Sugarland,

ing with the Stars" credentials, thanked "everybody that has followed me from the beginning and believed in me." She bested Jake Owen and the Zac Brown Band for the honor.

winners Other included



Singer Carrie Underwood accepts the award for Entertainer of the Year at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

bedroom about your feelings and boys and can win album of the year at the ACMs. I just didn't think that was possible."

Swift, who had four nominations going into Sunday's show, also got a special honor as McEntire presented her with an ACM Crystal Milestone Award for bringing so many young people to country music.

A tearful Hough, who added country singer to her "DancTrace Adkins and Brad Paisley, but the evening's most memorable moments came during the performances.

Adkins performed "'Til the Last Shot's Fired," a somber salute to U.S. troops, with the West Point Glee Club in honor of servicemen and women. The performance was introduced by Lt. Andrew Kinard, who had been wounded. He told the crowd, "As you listen to this song,

please consider that it's not about the war, it's about the warrior."

John Rich's angry anthem 'Shuttin' Detroit Down" also stirred the crowd.

"I'd like to dedicate this song tonight to all the hard-working, taxpaying Americans from coast to coast who love this country as much as I do," Rich said while holding a guitar tagged with a "Made in the U.S.A." sticker. "We wrote this song specifically for you," he said before launching into his searing song that feeds into taxpayer resentment about the bailouts on Wall Street.

Other performances included teen sensation Miley Cyrus, dancing atop a high staircase on stage; Heidi Newfield singing "Johnny and June," inspired by the late Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, around an appropriate ring of fire; and Underwood in a burgundy dress so overwhelming that it took up most of the stage.

"Can I borrow that?" host Reba McEntire quipped afterward.

Newcomer Johnson beat out veterans like George Strait and Paisley in nabbing the night's first honor, song of the year for his poignant hit about an old man looking back on his life, "In Color."

"Thanks to my band for going in on an off day and producing an off record," Johnson quipped in a brief acceptance speech.

Adkins won single of the year for his heartfelt hit "You're Gonna Miss This." The deepvoiced singer said the song, about how people want to grow up and move on with life when they should slow down and enjoy the moment more, was very personal to him, but he didn't think others would relate to it. When his label said they were going to release it as a single, he said, "Go ahead. Nobody's going play it."

"I'm glad I'm an idiot." Adkins cracked. "Thank you very much."

Sugarland broke Brooks & Dunn's lock on the vocal duo award, and lead singer Jennifer Nettles received an ACM Crystal Milestone Award for her songwriting.

Report: Lohan and Ronson'taking a brief break'

Regis and Kelly take show on road to New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa filled most of a city block beside the Mississippi River with devoted fans Monday, taking their syndicated talk show to New Orleans where they danced to a brass band and spoke of adventures touring alligator-infested swamps and sampling spicy Cajun fare.

The hosts arrived days ahead of the Monday and Tuesday taping of "Live with Regis and Kelly," readying four consecutive shows to be aired through Thursday. On Friday, they return to their New York studio.

Philbin said he ate his way through four succulent New Orleans restaurants. Ripa, her actor husband Mark Consuelos and their three children took a boat tour of a south Louisiana swamp where they eyed alligators and wild boar.

"The weekend was very exciting," Philbin said after Monday's show, which included guests Chris Paul of the New Orleans Hornets and celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse. Megan Joy, the latest castoff of the Fox reality show "American Idol," also performed.

This is the fifth time the show has gone to New Orleans. "Live with Regis and Kelly" last came to New Orleans in May 2007, when Philbin and Ripa helped volunteers build playground equipment at an elementary school damaged by Hurricane Katrina two years before.

'We love it here," said Ripa, who took a weekend streetcar ride with her family and visited the Aquarium of the Americas and the Audubon Insectarium with her three children.

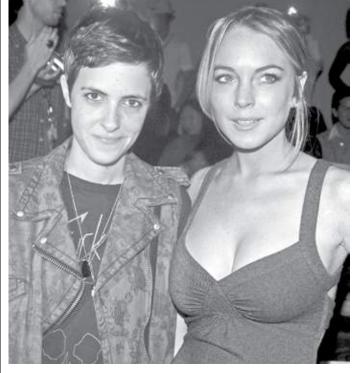
Ripa also spent time with actress Faith Ford, a Louisiana native, who starred with Ripa in the sitcom "Hope & Faith," which aired for three seasons on ABC from 2003 to 2006. Ford took Ripa out for fried chicken and pralines.

Footage of Philbin visiting a tattoo shop is scheduled to air later this week. Philbin told viewers he wants a tattoo, but it wasn't clear Monday whether he would go through with it, leaving audiences in more than 200 markets nationwide in suspense.

Some waited hours to see the live taping, filling almost a city block along New Orleans' Fulton Street.

"I've been waiting at least four hours," said Eliska Guidry, 29, wrapped in a blanket against an unseasonable cold snap Monday.

Guests for the rest of the week included Reggie Bush, a star running back with the New Orleans Saints; teen sensation Miley Cyrus and her father, country music singer Billy Ray Cyrus; actor Harry Hamlin; and singer and actor Jesse McCartney.



LOS ANGELES (AP)-Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson have split-for now. Lohan says that she and the 31-year-old Ronson, who announced they were a couple in September, are "taking a brief break so I can focus on myself."

Lohan, 22, made the comments to E! News Monday after a tumultuous weekend that saw the troubled pop star barred from a Ronson family party. The two have been dogged by rumors of arguments and breakups for months and are often photographed fighting.

In this Sept. 6, 2008 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson, left, attend the Charlotte Ronson 2009 Spring Collection in Bryant Park during Fashion Week in New York.

Spears tour may head to Australia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brit- tour to include dates in Australia ney Spears may take her "Circus" act down under. Attorneys for the pop singer and Spears' father and conservator, James Spears, discussed the idea of expanding her current "Circus" United States, Canada and the

and Europe during a Wednesday hearing. Nothing was decided in court, and another hearing was scheduled for April 14.

Spears is currently touring the

United Kingdom. The tour is currently scheduled to end in Manchester, England, on June 17.

The 27-year-old singer and her estate have been under the conservatorship of her father

Coldplay denies copying 'Viva La Vida'



In this Feb. 8, 2009 file photo, Chris Martin, of Coldplay, accepts the award for best rock album at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, as bandmates Guy Berryman, left, Jonny Buckland and Will Champion, right, look on.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Coldplay has denied in federal court that it copied parts of Joe Satriani's music for its hit song, "Viva La Vida."

In a response filed in Los An-

tween "Viva La Vida" and Satriani's "If I Could Fly" weren't enough to warrant damages.

Satriani's song "lacks originality," Coldplay's response claims, and shouldn't receive geles on Monday, attorneys for copyright protection. Satriani ment cases and he reiterated that Coldplay's band members also sued Coldplay in December, he thought the matter could have argued that any similarities be- claiming the British band used

"substantial, original portions" of Satriani's "If I Could Fly," which was released in 2004.

Satriani's lawyer, Howard E. King, said Coldplay's response was typical for copyright infringebeen resolved without a lawsuit.

and early version," was later re-

moved from the Web site Friday.

the beginnings of Hugh Jack-

man's clawed Marvel superhero

The movie, which focuses on

Fox News columnist out after 'Wolverine' review

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox tributed to FoxNews.com for 10 News columnist Roger Friedman years. He wrote in his Fox 411

is out after posting a review of a leaked fulllength work print of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." Fox News said Monday that the company's representatives and Friedman "mutually agreed to part ways

immediately."



Friedman had been an entertainment writer who has concolumn Thursday

that downloading the 20th Century Fox superhero prequel was 'so much easier than going out in the rain" and that the movie "exceeds expectations at every turn."

The early review of the film, which 20th Century Fox described as a "stolen, incomplete

are investigating the leak.

Wolverine, is not scheduled for release until May 1, but the leaked version began appearing online last week. 20th Century Fox promised that the source of the film would be prosecuted and said the FBI and Motion Picture Association of America

Dad miffed that fiance failed to ask for his daughter's hand

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced father of three who has worked hard at staying part of my children's lives, contributing financial and emotional support through college. I have since remarried and have a good relationship with all three, who are now on their own, working and leading normal, healthy and productive lives.

My 24-year-old daughter, "Amanda," has recently become engaged. Despite my giving her a "heads up" about wanting a cour-



tesy call from her fiance, "Larry," at some point, I got nothing. Apparently, she told him it wasn't necessary. So much for who will wear the pants in their family.

Without being a jerk, I mentioned something to Larry—half in jest—when they called to give me their good news. Knowing that I may have been slightly offended, I can't believe he didn't call me a few days later with an explanation or an apology. When I later mentioned to Amanda that I was disappointed, she and her sister insisted that the custom is outdated.

Larry is 30; he's no kid. I haven't found one dad yet who didn't get "the call" from a daughter's intended. Do I need to let go of this, or am I justified in speaking further to Larry about it? The wedding is getting closer, and I am ...

DISMAYED IN ROSWELL, GA.

DEAR DISMAYED: For everyone's sake, it would be better if you cooled off and stopped the advice gathering. While I agree that the formality of asking for a woman's hand (or whatever) may be outdated, particularly if a daughter is self-supporting and out on her own, it is still a gesture of respect. It would have been nice if she had held your feelings in higher regard, but perhaps she didn't feel her fiance would pass muster.

I don't know how many dads to whom you have confided this story, but for all concerned, it might be less embarrassing if you stopped and accepted the fact that, as much as you might like to protect your daughter, the gesture was unwelcome.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college-educated mother of three wonderful, well-adjusted children. The decision that I would not work was one that my husband and I made with the understanding that we would have to forgo a lot of luxuries because we wouldn't have a second income. It has been worth it, and we

I would never dream of asking a working mother to give me money so I could buy something I can't afford. So why, then, do so many working moms have no compunction about asking me for my time? The requests are endless—running their child's forgotten homework to school, picking up their kids from activities, doing their share at school functions, letting their dogs out, etc. Please tell me what to say to these nervy women.

BUSY WITH MY OWN IN TENNESSEE

DEAR BUSY: The working women who ask these favors may not appreciate the fact that being a stay-at-home mother is also a full-time job. If their requests make you feel encroached upon, all you have to say is that you can't do it because you have a "previous commitment." (You do not have to say that the commitment is to your own children.)

However, before you start turning down these other mothers in a wholesale fashion, allow me to remind you that the way to have friends is to be one. And the time to be a friend is when someone needs one. You don't have to be a pushover—but don't isolate yourself, either.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS: A happy Passover, everyone!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a businesssized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

22 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

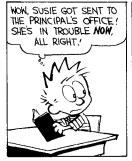
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis









By Bryan Basset







Adam@home

ADAM, YOU KNOW OF COURSE, WE CAN'T BUY AN HOTY WITH OUR A GUY CAN HONEY. YOU DREAM. DREAM ABOUT MONTHLY SAVINGS CANTHE DOY VT YAA WANT.

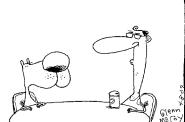


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The Duplex







By Glenn McCoy

By Eugene Sheffer **CROSSWORD**

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch

tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirsten Storms, 25; Patricia Arquette, 41; Julian Lennon, 46; Kofi Annan, 71

Happy Birthday: This could be a highly emotional year but not necessarily a bad one. It's a time of transformation and doing what's best for you. Embrace the inevitable and find a way to reinvent who you are and what you do best. Soon you will be back up on top in a secure position. Your numbers are 5, 8, 18, 27, 36, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be afraid to take a day off to sort through your plans and make sure that you have everything you need for upcoming events and activities. An interesting proposition will get you thinking about new possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give away any secrets. Pushing your will or taking physical action will not get you what you want. Situations will be hard to control and problems will escalate due to misinformation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Everything will come down to your personal performance. Expect someone to resent you and try to limit your maneuverability. Target what you want and go about getting it through hard work and honest, fair play. OOOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give in to someone trying to back you into a corner. Realizing that you can do with much less will be half the battle. Change may not be your cup of tea but the tables will turn if you are flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A meeting will help you coordinate what you want with the needs of others. Love is in the stars and, by making an effort to please someone, you

can ask for what you want in return. An old friend may be dishonest with you now. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for a

deal and you will find it. Don't let someone hold you hostage when you aren't responsible for the turn of events that have unfolded. Take care of your health and don't take unnecessary risks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think before you take action and your " ing an embarrassing mistake Things aren't nearly as bad as you imagine. There is always a silver lining, so sit back and wait for the

dust to settle. OOO SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by what someone is promising you. Rely on your own efforts. Sudden change can be expected and will be directly linked to someone you have learned a great deal

from in the past. **QQQ** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't give in to idle threats. Use your clout and your charm. You can make a difference but don't exaggerate in order to do so. Making the wrong person angry can cause setbacks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will try to talk you out of something that you know you should pursue. Don't give in to meddling or unrealistic plans. Stay ahead of the crowd with the latest information and the best advice.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are sitting in a much better position than you think. You have the ability to negotiate on your terms. Your receptiveness will help things move along faster. Your communication skills will be effective. Don't become emotional

over finances. 20000 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you give in to your emotions or anger you will lose sight of your goals and waste valuable time. Secrets will be divulged that may incriminate you or imply you have been involved with something or someone you don't wish to be associated with. ���

Birthday Baby: You are a crusader and a Good Samaritan. You are popular and sensitive to the needs of others. You stay in tune with your surroundings and make good choices.

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly creative and outgoing. You are a master of communication and can persuade others to join your pursuits.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer								
7	8	3	1	2	4	9	6	5
4	5	1	9	6	8	7	2	3
6	2	9	5	7	3	8	4	1
9	3	7	2	5	6	4	1	8
2	4	5	8	1	7	6	3	9
8	1	6	3	4	9	2	5	7
1	9	8	4	3	2	5	7	6
3	6	2	7	8	5	1	9	4
5	7	4	6	9	1	3	8	2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

TYMMKENNETHSOJR ITCBOYHGANODOFI SNBAERJENNARRK DURNRHGAGSDA(S) EH A A A K E T O A C A N W (K) V M Y S D E O R N K O A () I O A S E A N V L N N K L K T) N N LHRLAIGAABROWND POWELLTRNTEENEF AWTCDTKWIOIRNNE LNOMELZILZISGIY

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Adsit, Alec, Arnett, Awards, Baldwin, Banks, Boss, Brown, Cast, Cerie, Donaghy, Fey, Fictional, Floyd, Frank, Friedlander, Girlie, Grizz, Hornberger, Jack, Jane, Jaunty, Jenna, Jordan, Josh, Ken-neth, Kevin, Krakowski, Live, Liz Lemon, Lonny, Lorne, Marci, McBrayer, Miner, Morgan, Plaza, Powell, Richmond, Rockefeller, Rossitano, Show, Skit, Song, Tina, Tracy, Will Yesterday's Answer: Mobility

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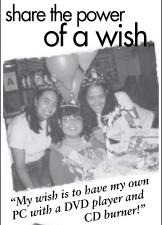
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The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Administrative Officer.

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Jordan, Robinson, Stockton among 5 elected to Hall



DETROIT (AP)—Air Jordan has a new name: Hall of Famer.

Michael

Jordan was elected to the class of 2009 on Monday, set for induction in Septemeber with his Dream Team teammates David Robinson and John Stockton. Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer are also part of a class announced in Detroit, site of the men's Final Four.

Induction is Sept. 10-12 in Springfield, Mass., home of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

"I don't like being up here for the Hall of Fame because at that time your basketball career is completely over," Jordan said. "I was hoping this day would be 20 more years, or actually go in when I'm dead and gone."

Jordan's Hall of Fame selection was a slam dunk after he retired as perhaps the greatest player in history. And he gave much of the credit Monday to his college coach.

"There's no way you guys would have got a chance to see Michael Jordan play without Dean Smith," he said.

His soaring dunks, Nike commercials and "Air Jordan" nickname helped stamp him as one the most recognizable athletes around the world. He finished a 15-year career with the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards with 32,292 points—the third-highest total in league history, behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone. His final career average of 30.12 goes down as the best, just ahead of Wilt Chamberlain's 30.07.

"Simply the greatest to ever



From left, Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer, and former NBA basketball players John Stockton, David Robinson and Michael Jordan hold jerseys Monday, April 6, 2009, in Detroit, at the announcement that they were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

play the game of basketball. He is the one player that each young person in this league should emulate and aspire to become. His work ethic, drive, skill level and competitive spirit were unmatched," Jordan's former Bulls teammate and now team GM, John Paxson said.

Jordan was a five-time NBA MVP, won six championships with the Bulls and another in college with North Carolina. The Tar Heels play Michigan State in the national championship game Monday night.

Jordan will root on the Tar Heels, but had no plans to give them a pep talk.

Tar Heels coach Roy Williams was an assistant with Carolina on that 1982 championship team and was at Monday's induction, where Ty Lawson won the Bob Cousy award as the nation's top point guard.

Jordan retired twice during his career. He first came back to the Bulls in 1994 and won three more championships before retiring again in 1998, then had an ill-fated two-year stint with the Washington Wizards before calling it quits for good in 2003. He's now managing partner of the Charlotte Bobcats.

On Monday, he joked that when he saw Stockton and Robinson he was ready to put his shorts on again.

"I always want to be able to have you thinking I can always go back and play the game of basketball and put your shorts on," Jordan said. "Hall of Fame to me is like, OK, it's over and done with."

Jordan won two of his titles in the 1990s against Sloan, Stockton and the Jazz. Stockton spent his entire career with Utah and finished with 19,711 points, and holds NBA records 15,806 assists and 3,265 steals. He also holds NBA records for most assists in a season (1,164 in 1990-91) and highest assist average in a season (14.5 in 1989-90).

"Growing up I never thought about the Hall of Fame," Stockton said. "All I wanted was a chance to go to college."

Utah took Stockton in the first round of the 1984 draft, using the No. 16 pick on a relatively unknown player from Gonzaga who became one of the top point guards.

"I haven't given this much thought over the course of a lifetime," he said. "I'm not sure it quite strikes home until you're standing here."

Robinson, who earned the nickname "The Admiral" from his college career at Navy, joined Stockton and Jordan as members of the NBA's 50th

anniversary team.

He had a stellar 14-year career with the San Antonio Spurs that included two NBA championships, an MVP season, a rookie of the year award, 10 All-Star selections, a scoring title and two Olympic gold medals. Unlike Jordan's inability to stay home after his final shot in Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals, Robinson was content to retire after winning a second title with the Spurs in 2003.

"If I had to pick one night in my career, it would probably be walking off the court as a champion and knowing that was going to be my last memory of basketball," Robinson said.

Sloan, who did not attend the ceremony, is the longest tenured head coach in major league sports with a single franchise. Sloan is the only NBA coach to win more than 1,000 games with

a single team and has the Jazz in seventh place in the Western Conference going into Monday night's games.

"I've been very lucky to have such great players, especially John, who is very deserving of this honor," Sloan said. "I've also been fortunate to be with such a tremendous organization for the past 20-plus years and am extremely grateful to the (Larry H.) Miller family for all of their support."

Sloan was missed on Monday by Stockton.

"He's not only a coach and a mentor, but a friend," Stockton said. "I enjoy him very much. The honor to share it with him, terrific."

Stringer has led three separate schools to the Final Four in her 38-year career and has an 825-280 mark spanning four decades. She trails only Pat Summitt and Jody Conradt on the career wins list, and guided Rutgers to its fifth straight regional semifinals trip this season.

"My knees are weak, and to think I would be standing here with these great, great, men of basketball," Stringer said. "It's not ever about me. It's about the players who all make it happen."

Stringer got her start in 1973 at Cheyney State, where Hall of Famer John Chaney was the men's coach, and took the school to the Final Four in 1982. She also took Iowa to the Final Four, the only women's coach to take three teams there.

"I am very happy and elated that she was selected to the Hall of Fame this year," Chaney said. "I would think not many, if any, Division II school has its former men's and women's coaches in the Hall of Fame."

Spurs' Ginobili out for rest of season



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs' Big Three is down to two.

Manu Ginobili will miss the rest of the season and playoffs for the Spurs after tests Monday revealed that his troubled right ankle has gotten worse.

It was the news San Antonio dreaded after Ginobili sat out the fourth quarter in Sunday's blowout loss at Cleveland, and leaves the Spurs limping toward the postseason in search of a fifth NBA title since 1999.

Ginobili missed 19 games after the All-Star break to heal a stress reaction in his right distal fibula. He returned March 25, but tests showed the stubborn injury is now a fracture.

The Spurs said Ginobili wasn't expected to need surgery. But either way, Ginobili is out and the Spurs are hobbling with less than two weeks before the playoffs begin.

Tim Duncan is bothered by sore knees and has been sitting out the second game in backto-backs down the stretch this season. Tony Parker carried the Spurs after Ginobili first went out in February and Duncan's knees began aching, and the weight figures to fall on the 26-year-old's shoulders again.

The Spurs lead the Southwest Division by a half-game but have fallen two games behind Denver for the No. 2 seed in the West, a spot San Antonio had held for most of the season. Their final six games begin Tuesday at Oklahoma City.

Ginobili scored four points before his ankle stiffened toward the end of Sunday's 101-81 loss to the Cavaliers. A CT scan and MRI on Monday showed that he had a stress fracture in the ankle and an increased narrow edema.

Ginobili also missed the start of this season while recovering from surgery to his left ankle. He's played in 44 games this season. He averaged 15.5 points and had recently been installed in the starting lineup—a different role for the NBA's reigning sixth man of the year.

Injuries have forced Spurs

coach Gregg Popovich to tinker with his lineup and rotations much later in the season than is custom in San Antonio. Popovich has been doing his best to keep his veteran team healthy down the stretch, resting Duncan in back-to-back games over last month to keep him fresh for the postseason.

Now the Spurs will likely need even more from All-Stars Duncan and Parker to make a long playoff run.

The 31-year-old Ginobili has played in seven NBA seasons, all with Spurs, and teamed with Duncan and Parker to build a nucleus that has won three NBA titles since 2003.

Last season, Ginobili's sore left ankle made his signature explosiveness visibly absent in the playoffs, particularly in the Western Conference finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. Later that summer in the Olympics while playing for Argentina, he hobbled off the court during a loss to United States and eventual got surgery to repair a ligament in the ankle.

NBA BRIEFS

Rondo turns ankle; Garnett improving for Celtics

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)— Boston Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo left practice after turning his ankle, but coach Doc Rivers said it did not appear that the injury was serious. Rondo was seen limping off the floor Monday at the team's practice facility. "He just twisted his ankle, nothing bad, but instead of keeping him out on the floor, easier to take him off," Rivers said. Rondo has sprained his right ankle twice previously this season but has only missed two games. Rivers said he did not know which ankle Rondo injured. Rondo has sprained his right ankle twice previously this season but has only missed two games. Meanwhile, Rivers said Kevin Garnett was making improvement as he rehabs his sprained right knee. "I'm just really happy with what we see," Rivers said. "A week ago there was more concern. This week, less concern. He looks great, he's moving great. You can just tell

the difference." Rivers said he expected Garnett to accompany the team during the final road trip of the regular season to Cleveland and Philadelphia. He ruled out Garnett playing against the Cavaliers on Sunday, but said he could play April 14 against the 76ers. "He won't play this week, Wednesday, Friday or Sunday. But he's going to go on the road with us and start practicing," Rivers said. Rivers also said that Leon Powe (right knee) and Brian Scalabrine (post-concussion syndrome) could both return to practice before the end of the regular season on April 15 against Washington. "Actually, our hope is to start practicing our entire team on this little road trip, which would be really nice since I haven't seen them in a while, and I think it's possible," Rivers said.

Clippers' Randolph arrested on suspicion of DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers suspended forward Zach Randolph for

two games on Monday after he was arrested for investigation of drunken driving hours after the team's 88-85 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. Two California Highway Patrol officers saw a white Rolls-Royce weaving on Interstate 405 around 2:25 a.m., Officer Tony Garrett said. The car was traveling south in the Culver City area near west Los Angeles. The officers pulled the car over and identified Randolph as the driver. Garrett said alcohol could be smelled inside the car. After conducting a field sobriety test, the officers arrested Randolph and took him to the Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles. A CHP spokeswoman said there wasn't any information regarding whether Randolph took a breath test. The power forward was cited and released at 9:01 a.m and spoke with Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy at practice. He also spoke with reporters, but wouldn't comment on specifics of the incident. "I regret that the situation happened. I hope people don't rush to judgment," Randolph said.

Orioles beat up on Yankees, Sabathia in opener

(AP)—CC Sabathia and the

new-look New York Yankees absorbed an old-fashioned beating on opening day.

Sabathia allowed six runs and failed to get through the fifth inning in his first start with New York, and the Yankees lost to the Baltimore Orioles 10-5 on Monday.

After missing a postseason for the first time since 1993. New York spent \$423.5 million on free agents Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira during the offseason. Sabathia got a \$161 million, seven-year deal, but the left-hander hardly looked like an ace against the Orioles, who finished last in the AL East in 2008—their 11th straight losing season.

Sabathia (0-1) gave up eight hits in 4 1-3 innings, walked five, threw two wild pitches and did not record a strikeout for the first time since July 25, 2005, at Oakland. The six runs were the most he allowed in 32 starts since last April, when he pitched for Cleveland.

Missing injured Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees used home runs by Jorge Posada and Hideki Matsui to close to 6-5 in the seventh, but a two-run homer by light-hitting Cesar Izturis sparked a four-run eighth that blunted the comeback.

Adam Jones and Brian Roberts each had three of Baltimore's 14 hits, and Jeremy Guthrie (1-0) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Mariners 6, Twins 1

At Minneapolis, Ken Griffey Jr. got off to a great second start with Seattle, hitting an openingnight home run to back Felix

Hernandez (1-0) pitched eight innings and Franklin Gutierrez had a two-run homer against Francisco Liriano (0-1) as the Mariners—with five new faces in their lineup—took the first step toward forgetting the futility of last year. Manager Don Wakamatsu, baseball's first Asian-American in that job, enjoyed a winning debut.

Seattle spoiled the final of 28

BALTIMORE openers in the Metrodome's history. The Twins move to openair Target Field next spring.

Angels 3, Athletics 0

At Anaheim, Calif., Joe Saunders pitched into the seventh inning and Howie Kendrick homered and singled in another run for Los Angeles.

With John Lackey sidelined by a sore right elbow, Saunders (1-0) yielded three hits over 6 2-3 innings in his first openingday assignment.

Saunders, whose 17-7 record was the Angels' best last season, and Jered Weaver are the only two regulars in Los Angeles' rotation. Lackey, Ervin Santana and Kelvim Escobar all are on the disabled list and expected to miss at least the first month.

Rangers 9, Indians 1

At Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock hit a three-run homer off Cliff Lee and Kevin Millwood pitched seven sharp innings to lead Texas to the win.

The Rangers had 15 hits against four pitchers, including Jarrod Saltalamacchia's solo homer in the eighth. It matched the most hits for Texas in a season opener.

The Rangers jumped ahead with four runs in the second off Lee, who allowed only four earned runs in his first seven starts a year ago.

Blue Jays 12, Tigers 5

At Toronto, Adam Lind homered and drove in six runs, Roy Halladay coasted with a big lead and Toronto beat Detroit in an opener delayed when fans littered the field.

Umpires waved both teams off the field for nine minutes in the bottom of the eighth inning after two balls were thrown from the stands in the direction of Tigers left fielder Josh Anderson.

Groundskeepers cleared paper airplanes and empty beer cups from the warning track as the public address announcer read a message warning the crowd of 48,027 that the game could be forfeited.

Mets 2, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Francisco Ro-

New York Yankees left fielder Johnny Damon reaches for but is unable to catch a two run home run hit by Baltimore Orioles' Cesar Izturis in the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, April 6, 2009 in Baltimore. driguez and his fellow relievers protected a slim lead for Johan rest of the way. Santana, and New York held on for a victory over the Cincinnati

Reds in their season opener. Daniel Murphy drove in both Mets runs with a homer off Aaron Harang (0-1) and a groundout. And on a raw, cold afternoon, New York's rebuilt bullpen was nearly perfect.

Santana (1-0) went 5 2-3 innings, extending his streak without a loss since June 28. Sean Green, J.J. Putz and Rodriguez didn't allow a hit the Loney had three hits, including

Dodgers 4, Padres 1

At San Diego, Hiroki Kuroda outpitched Padres ace Jake Peavy, leading the defending NL West champions past San Diego without a hit from Manny Ramirez.

The enigmatic slugger went 0-for-3 with a walk and a run on his first opening day with the Dodgers. Matt Kemp drove a 418-foot homer to straightaway center field off Peavy, and James a two-run single. The crowd of 45,496 was the largest in Petco Park's six-year history.

Cubs 4, Astros 2

At Houston, Carlos Zambrano pitched into the seventh inning for his first opening-day win in five chances, leading Chicago over Roy Oswalt and Houston.

Zambrano (1-0) allowed one run and five hits over six-plus innings in his first start against the Astros since his no-hitter on Sept. 14 in Milwaukee. That game was played at Miller Park after Hurricane Ike damaged the Houston area.

Alfonso Soriano hit his 50th career leadoff home run and Aramis Ramirez also went deep against Oswalt (0-1). Mike Fontenot had three hits for Chicago.

Marlins 12, Nationals 6

At Miami. Emilio Bonifacio became a crowd favorite in his Marlins debut, hitting the majors' first inside-the-park homer on opening day since 1968 and going 4-for-5 against his former team.

Florida also hit three homers over the fence, including Hanley Ramirez's grand slam.

Bonifacio was summoned for a curtain call following his first big league homer, which landed short of the warning track but sailed over center fielder Lastings Milledge because he was playing so shallow.

Diamondbacks 9, **Rockies 8**

At Phoenix, Tony Clark and Arizona newcomer Felipe Lopez each homered from both sides of the plate, and the Diamondbacks outslugged Colorado in a home run derby of an opener.

Eight home runs were hit in the game, including the decisive shot by Chad Tracy leading off the seventh against reliever Jason Grilli (0-1).

Lopez and Clark became the first switch-hitting teammates to homer from both sides of the plate in a game since Jorge Posada and Bernie Williams did it for the New York Yankees on April 23, 2000. It had never been done on opening day.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, with the Pirates down to their last strike, Jack Wilson hit a three-run double to cap a four-run ninth inning off rookie closer Jason Motte, leading Pittsburgh over St. Louis.

In a game played in 41degree chill, Ryan Ludwick broke a 2-all tie with a leadoff homer in the eighth off Tyler Yates, and David Freese added a sacrifice fly off John Grabow (1-0) for a 4-2 lead.



NFL BRIEFS

Raiders sign QB Jeff Garcia

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— After a four-team, five-season odyssey since leaving the 49ers, Jeff Garcia finally found his way back home to the Bay Area—albeit on the other side from where he started. The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback joined the Oakland Raiders on Monday, with the 39year-old passer agreeing to a one-year deal to be JaMarcus Russell's backup. Raiders senior executive John Herrera told The Associated Press that Garcia will join the club's offseason workout program immediately in the next stage of

a long detour to the Canadian Football League. Garcia spent the past two seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, starting 24 games while leading them to a division title and a playoff berth in 2007, when he also earned his fourth Pro Bowl berth. Despite solid numbers last season—2,712 yards passing and a 90.2 passer rating with 12 touchdowns and just six interceptions—he wasn't re-signed by the Bucs and new coach Raheem Morris, who apparently is going with Brian Griese or Luke McCown at the position. Garcia, who will

a remarkable NFL career that be paid more than the league the Niners from a Grey Cup- Feb. 27 trade that sent Winslow, minimum by Oakland, is a native of Gilroy, Calif., just south of San Jose. Although several teams had interest in Garcia as a backup, he chose the Raiders for the chance to continue his career close to home with a familiar coaching staff, including passing game coordinator Ted Tollner, a former 49ers assistant. Garcia played at San Jose State and enjoyed the best seasons of his NFL career with San Francisco. He passed for 16,408 yards and 113 touchdowns for the team he grew up supporting, making three Pro Bowls and two playoff appearances from 1999-2003 after joining

winning career in the CFL.

Bucs' Winslow agrees to contract extension

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Kellen Winslow and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers agreed Monday to a six-year, \$36.1 million contract extension that will make the one-time Pro Bowl selection the highest-paid tight end in NFL history. Agent Drew Rosenhaus said the deal includes \$20.1 million guaranteed, a record for a tight end. With incentives, it could be worth up to \$42.1 million. Contract talks began soon after the

who participated in the Bucs voluntary minicamp last week, to Tampa Bay from Cleveland in exchange for a second-round pick in this year's draft and a fifth-rounder in 2010. "The Bucs were open to something long-term," Rosenhaus said. "It's nice to get it done." Winslow was the sixth overall pick in the 2004 draft, and his career has been marked by plenty of highs, lows and controversy. The 25-year-old had 219 receptions for 2,459 yards and 11 touchdowns in five seasons with the Browns, and the Bucs are counting on him to play a major role in an overhauled offense next season. Winslow had 89 catches for 875 yards and three touchdowns in 2006 and followed with 82 receptions for 1,106 yards in 2007. He survived a serious motorcycle accident and battled injuries throughout his stay in Cleveland, and last season squabbled with the Browns' front office. The Bucs fired coach Jon Gruden in January after losing their last four games to miss the playoffs following a 9-3 start. Upgrading the offense has been the top priority under successor Raheem Morris, who brought in former Boston College coach Jeff Jagodzinski as his offensive coordinator.

Garapan downs RM System

Garapan bounced back from a loss against Phil Pan via an 86-79 victory over RM System in the Masters division of the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

New recruits William Opone and James Abuy proved to be good additions to Garapan, as the duo combined for about half of the team's total points. Opone finished with 21 points, while Abuy tallied 19.

Garapan, which bowed to Phil Pan on March 30, 81-74,

also drew double figures from two more players with Ferdie De La Torre also nailing 19 and Adonis Macoto chipping in 10.

Garapan was in control of the game since the opening buzzer.

Macoto, Opone, and another new recruit, Melvin Villarin, teamed up in Garapan's good start to give the home team a 21-14 lead.

Dela Torre and Jun Galzote, who were scoreless in the first period, found their mark in the second canto, making seven and six points, respectively, to increase Garapan's lead to 10 at halftime, 41-30.

RM System outscored Garapan for the first time in the third period, 21-14, to move within four, 51-55. RM System cut the lead to single digits, as no Garapan player canned more

than two fieldgoals in that canto.

But it seemed Garapan just rested for awhile, as it buckled

down to work in the fourth period with De La Torre leading the attack. De La Torre fired 10 points, Opone contributed nine, and Abuy chipped in six.

With the trio making things happen for Garapan anew in the fourth canto, RM System faltered in its bid to pull off a come-from-behind win.

Alex Ocampo led RM System's losing cause, scoring 18 points. Gilbert Espinosa added 16, while Danny Illahi and Warren Villegas tallied 14 apiece.

Garapan 86 – Opone 21, De La Torre 19, Abuy 19, Macoto 10, Villarin 7, Galzote 6, Abuan 2, Cortez, 2.

RM System 79 - Ocampo 18, Espinosa 16, Illahi 14, Villegas 14, Paras, 6, Surima 4, Mangubat 2, Yap 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 41-30, 55-51, 86-79.

TAR HEELS

From Page 28

The Tar Heels (34-4) were up 55-34 at halftime, breaking a 42-year-old title-game record for biggest lead at the break and setting the mark for most points at the half.

By then, Lawson had already set an NCAA title-game record with seven steals.

When you play North Carolina, there's nothing you can do," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "Lawson says it all. He does stir the drink."

A pretty strong drink.

This collection of NBA talent was too, too much from wire to wire, from the start of the tournament, to the very end.

Carolina won every game by double digits, something that hasn't happened since Duke did it in 2001

Lots of basketball fans saw this coming, including America's No. 1 Hoopster-in-Chief.

Yes, President Barack Obama picked the Tar Heels to take it all in his much-publicized bracket.

Magic Johnson, Michigan State's Spartan-in-Chief, joined Larry Bird at center court to present the game ball, a tribute to the 30-year anniversary of their historic matchup and Michigan State's first title.

From there, it was pretty much all "Showtime," all the time—but not for Michigan State. Heck. Magic didn't even stick around for the end. He was spotted walking up the tunnel

with 3 1/2 minutes left.

Izzo tried to call a timeout to stop the onslaught with 6:45 left in the first half. His team came out and promptly turned it over—one of 14 in the first half, compared to only 12 baskets.

Goran Suton led the Spartans with 17 points, and Kalin Lucas, the Big Ten player of the year, had 14—most scored once the game was out of hand, which was very early in this one.

Michigan State pulled within 13 a couple times late in the second half, and the crowd of 72,922– mostly pulling for the Spartans tried to make some noise.

But for most of the game, cavernous Ford Field had the atmosphere of a Lions game, save the few thousand Tar Heel fans whose Carolina Blue team put in a much better blue-collar effort than the team that was supposed to pride itself on that.

"I just don't think we did the things we did all year," Izzo said. "When you say that, you take away some credit from North Carolina, and I don't want to do that. It was a combination of us and them, but we need to take some of the blame."

As for that 98-63 beatdown Carolina put on Michigan State in this same building back on Dec. 3? No fluke. In fact, Detroit might want to give Ford Field a nice, long break. The winless Lions went 0-8 here last season, and there was no halt to the Motor City's misery on this night.

It was, almost literally, over before it began. Ellington had a double-pump scoop layup and a 3-pointer and Hansbrough spotted up and sank a 14-foot jumper all in the first 4:25 to put Carolina ahead 17-7. It never got closer.

The Spartans, meanwhile, were having trouble simply getting the ball in after Tar Heel buckets, turning it over that way twice in the first 6 minutes, part of a depressing day that didn't do justice to the effort they put in to get here.

During pregame introductions, Williams walked over to shake hands with Izzo, who was distracted, drawing up a play on the greaseboard in the huddle. He jokingly showed the diagram to Williams—and vou know what: It probably wouldn't have mattered.

Izzo conceded in the lead-up to the game that if both teams played their best, Michigan State would lose. He'll never find out if he was right because, while North Carolina was more than ready, the Spartans never showed up.

"The best team won," Izzo said. "That's an easy statement to make."

Williams joined Jim Calhoun, Billy Donovan and Mike Krzyzewski as the fourth active coach (13th overall) to win multiple titles.

This title came four years after his first championship—and for the first time, with a roster full of his own recruits.

"Roy Williams is not that good," Williams said. "But boy, ol' Roy's got some big-time players. That's what it takes.'

Hansbrough was the only one who knew he wanted to come back from the get-go. He simply loves college, and though his senior season wasn't quite as good as the year before, the ending was much better. Nobody on Michigan State could stop him—no shame there—and he had seven rebounds and two assists to go with the 18 points.

"I desperately wanted this championship for that young man," Williams said. "I know it's corny, but that's who I am."

Lawson was often criticized for not looking to shoot enough, and he sort of went back to his roots in this one. He finished only 3-for-10 from the floor but was a dominating presence, with six assists and a whopping 18 trips to the free-throw line.

Oh, and don't forget Ed Davis. We'll be seeing the 6-10 freshman in the pros with these other guys someday soon. He went 5-for-7 for 11 points with eight rebounds in 14 minutes and may have proven all he needs to, as well.

Overall, North Carolina dominated every matchup on the floor in pretty much every way. The Tar Heels were a unanimous No. 1 in the preseason and became the first UNC team to start and finish at No. 1 since 1982.

Michael Jordan was the star of that team.

There may not be any Jordans on this team, but there were plenty of Hansbroughs and Lawsons and Ellingtonsmore than enough to finish off a project that seemed destined to end the way it did: On a ladder in Detroit, with scissors and twine in their hands.

When the Spartans closed to within 68-53, Lawson penetrated through the defense and found Hansbrough for a layup with about 9 minutes left. When Michigan State clawed even closer to 78-65, Lawson blew by his defender and made a doublepump layup in the final seconds of the shot clock. It was as close

The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its 2nd Annual CWGA Tournament this Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

2nd Annual CWGA

tourney on April 11

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, interest in golf; 2. Establish show time on Saturday is set at and encourage competition 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm Promote and provide social at the east course.

ond day of the competition will be played at the west course with

On Sunday, the sec-

the same show time at 12pm and tee time at 1pm.

Tournament fee is \$20 for two days, excluding the green fee. The banquet of the 2nd Annual CWGA Tournament will be held at the Saipan World Resort, beginning 6pm.

For more information, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community and good sportsmanship; 3.

functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things neces-

sary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB				
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	-				
Toronto	1	0	1.000	-				
Boston	0	0	.000	1/2				
Tampa Ba	0	0	.000	1/2				
New York	0	1	.000	1				
Central Division								

.000 Chicago Kansas City .000 1/2 1/2 Cleveland 0 .000 Detroit .000 Minnesota

West Division 0 1.000 -Los Angeles Seattle

1.000 -0 1.000 -.000 1 Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division Atlanta 1.000 -Florida

1.000 -New York 1.000 Philadelphia 0

Central Division Chicago Pittsburgh 1.000 -.000 1 0 1/2 Milwaukee .000 .000 St. Louis

West Division

Arizona	- 1	U	1.000	-
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	-
San Francisco	0	0	.000	1/2
Colorado	0	1	.000	1
San Diego	0	1	.000	1

Monday's Game Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 1

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 2, Cincinnati 1 Arizona 9, Colorado 8 Florida 12, Washington 6 Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 4 L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 1 Chicago Cubs 4, Houston 2 Tampa Bay at Boston, ppd., Texas 9, Cleveland 1 Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, ppd.,

Baltimore 10, N.Y. Yankees 5 Toronto 12, Detroit 5 Seattle 6, Minnesota 1 L.A. Angels 3, Oakland 0

MICHIGAN

From Page 28

of some 1-and-1s," Izzo said. For Izzo and about 50,000 fans at Ford Field, it was tough to watch the Spartans.

Each time they gave their green-clad supporters a rare chance to cheer in the second half, such as when the deficit was cut to 13. a Tar Heel, usually Ty Lawson or Tyler Hansbrough, would quiet the crowd with timely baskets or free throws.

The second-seeded Spartans reached the championship game with contributions from a lot of players, but just a few of them played well in the biggest game of their lives.

Suton had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Durrell Summers scored 13 and Kalin Lucas added 14 points and seven rebounds.

Suton and Lucas earned spots

on the all-Final Four team.

Lucas, though, had so much trouble quarterbacking his team on offense that he once threw a pass that landed square on Lawson's back and led to North Carolina padding its considerable cushion with a Wayne Ellington dunk.

That was one of 21 turnovers that led to 25 points for North Carolina.

Super substitute Allen missed all eight of his attempts—only one inside the 3-point arc—and Raymar Morgan slipped back into a funk, making only one shot and grabbing only one rebound.

After the Spartans walked off the court with their head down, teammate Korie Lucious was pushed in a wheelchair because of a foot injury.

"We heard something pop in there," Izzo said. "It's probably nothing real good, but I don't know.'

UNC

ter. Not to a team that had carried the Tar Heels to a regional championship game in 2007 and a Final Four last season, only to fall short each time.

But not this time. They roared out of the gate to take a doubledigit lead in the first 4 minutes and made enough plays near the end to thwart the Spartans' desperate, but ultimately futile, comeback attempts.

The moment was particularly sweet for Hansbrough, who talked openly about how badly he wanted to win a championship from the moment he arrived in Chapel Hill in 2005. He

became one of the few four-year stars seemingly left in the college game and the first returning AP national player of the year since Shaquille O'Neal in 1991.

Lawson, Ellington and Green all opted to enter the NBA draft so they could work out for teams. But coach Roy Williams said none had the guaranteed draft position they wanted—Ellington and Green didn't figure to be first-round picks—so they opted to come back for another push.

With their top six scorers back, the Tar Heels were a unanimous preseason pick to win the national championship. They played through injuries and under the weight of impossibly high expectations, including questions of whether they would go un-

beaten. Hansbrough—praised for his determination and gritty work ethic—was even criticized for his game not being what it was last season.

But it all paid off Monday night, when they completed a dominating run through the NCAA tournament in which they won every game by at least 12 points. They were the first team to win every game by double figures on the way to the title since Duke in 2001.

North Carolina rolled to a 15-5 lead in the early minutes, then stretched that margin to as many as 24 points in the first half before taking a 55-34 lead into the break. And each time Michigan State tried to rally in the second half. the Tar Heels had an answer.

as the Spartans would get.

Eventually, Williams pulled his starters with 63 seconds left and the Tar Heels up big. Hansbrough walked right to Williams and greeted him with a bear hug before joining his celebrating teammates down the bench. Lawson and Ellington followed, their final moment in a championship run a year in the making.

Top pros arrive for XTERRA Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.con REPORTER

Three of the world's top professional triathletes are now in town for next week's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Julie Dibens, Renata Bucher, and Jim McConnel arrived last Sunday after their successful stint in the XTERRA Guam series.

Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica said the three pros immediately plunged



famous bike course.

XTEFFR testing the SAIPAN Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour's

Dibens, Bucher, and McConnel are scheduled for a television interview at KSPN 2 in the afternoon today.

The three are also set for a press interview on Friday afternoon at the DFS conference room

Dibens ruled last weekend's XTERRA Guam as she asserted her lofty billing following her successful defense of the XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii last October.

Bucher, who won last year's Saipan leg, finished second to Dibens in Guam.



Dibens' British compatriot Mc-Connel placed third in the men's division behind

winner Olivier Marceau of Switzerland and runner-up Sam Gardner, another Brit.

Marceau topped XTERRA Saipan in 2007 after also ruling the event in 2005 and 2006, while his fellow Swiss Bucher ruled the women's side and Dibens was second.

Organizers are now marking the trails for next week's race.

The number of participants is expected to reach over a hundred amateur and professional athletes

The XTERRA Saipan is the centerpiece event for next month's 2009 Saipan Sportfest, which is set to start April 15 with several activities including the XTERRA University right on the first day.

The XTERRA University will be followed by the Sunset Trail run (5k and 10k) on April 17 (Friday) at 5pm at American Memorial Park.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship and XTERRA Sport is set for April 18.

There will also be an XTER-RA Kids bike race on race day at the XTERRA compound.

Several other pros from Europe and Japan will be arriving crowding the top favorites.

The Tagaman Triathlon will begin at the Pacific Islands Club beach at 6am on April 25 with the finish line at Micro Beach.

Jets assured of Senior League pennant

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Two-time defending champion Jets virtually won the Se-

nior League pennant of the 2009 Saipan Little League following its 12-0 drubbing of Lion King last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Jets as they avenged a 0-9 defeat to the Lion King in the two teams' last meeting on March 21.

That loss snapped the Jets' eight-game winning streak.

With the victory last Sunday, the Jets widened their gap from the rest of the field with a 13-1 win-loss mark.

Last Saturday, the Jets nailed their most difficult win, a 7-6 victory over the Fielders.

The Jets piled up seven runs after three innings and held the Fielders scoreless after six full innings.



The Fielders scored six runs in the top of seventh with two outs before Jets reliever Harry Nakamura took the third out via a 4-3 play.

They have two remaining games before the playoff round but even if they lose both, they are already assured of the pennant.

The Jets will meet Ol'Aces

on April 19 and the San Roque D-9ers on April 25.

Team manager Derron Flores is optimistic of the Jets' chances for a three-peat.

At the forefront of the highly motivated team are John Salas, Lincoln Ingram, Toby Fleming, Eli Aughenbaugh, Tomas Camacho, A.J. Calvo, Juan Taitano, Marvin Ngeskebei, and Joe Palacios.

The substitutes include Justin Kintol, Josh Jones, Harry Nakamura, Chris Meyers, and Keoni Lizama.

The coaching staff is composed of head coach Vinnie Sablan and his assistant Juan Tenorio.

The Jets sponsors are Juan S. Tenorio of JET Holdings, Jim Gebhard of Pacific Amusement, and MegaByte Saipan.

Also last Sunday the D-9ers posted an easy 13-2 victory over Ol'Aces.

The win was the D-9ers' second straight and they are now tied with the Fielders in second place with identical 8-5 winloss records.

The D-9ers also scored a lopsided victory over Lion King, 13-3, last Saturday.

Heo begins bid for ITF ranking points

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO REPORTER



CNMI top junior netter Ji Hoon Heo started

his bid for ITF Juniors ranking points yesterday during the first round of the Jeju International Junior Championships 2009 in Jeju, South Korea.

Heo was in the lower half of the main draw of the tournament, which featured 48 players from Korea, Japan, Belarus, Indonesia, and China.

The Jeju tournament is a Grade 4 event in ITF Juniors calendar and offers the least ranking points and should be used as an introduction to the ITF Juniors Circuit.

The CNMI bet was paired against Korea's Kyu-Min Park in the first round yesterday, but results of the game were unavailable at press time.

The 16-year-old Park is currently ranked No. 910 in the world in ITF Juniors and climbed to as high as No. 882 (February 16, 2009). This year, Park holds similar 1-2 records in singles and doubles and has a career record of 2-8 in singles and 13-7 in doubles.

The 17-year-old Heo is at No. 1.255 in the ITF Juniors rankings, as he has earned five ranking points in singles and 3.75 in doubles. Heo was previously ranked at No. 1,206 (Feb. 2, 2006).

The CNMI netter has a 0-3 record in singles this year and 3-3 in doubles. Overall, he owns a 1-11 record in singles in ITF events and 5-10 in doubles.

This will be Heo's second chance to compete in Jeju and he vowed to have a better showing this time. Last year, Heo was in the same tournament, but had to go through a qualifier to make it to the main draw. He won only once in the qualifier and faltered in his bid to advance to the main draw.

This year's Jeju tournament has Koreans getting the top two seedings in the event with world No. 68 Suk-Young Jeong ranked first and No. 201 Jung Woong Na at second. The two also drew byes in the first round.

Others drawing byes in the opening round were Dae-Hee Lee, Kaichi Uchida, Michael Tjuat Jadarma, Ang Li, Mikia Karpovich, Ki Su Jung, Yong-Jae Kwon, Sangmin Park, Genki Hosoya, Byeong-Mo An, Hong Chung, Jae Moon Lee, Jae Won Yun, Jun Nan Tao, and Moo Seong Park.

The tournament in Jeju will run from April 7 to 12. Heo will stay in Korea for another ITF event in Seoul, but this time he has to go through a qualifying tournament before making it to the main draw.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here competing in the men's open singles division of the PIC netfest, is now in Korea for two ITF tournaments.

Docomo makes finals, IT&E ousts Quichocho



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Docomo Pacific booked the first finals ticket in the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League following an 81-79 win over Diamond Auto Care Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Making it to the finals first completed an uphill climb for Docomo, which finished the regular season only at fifth place with its 5-7 record. Docomo won its first game in the playoffs against IT&E, 88-81 and stunned pennant champion CNMI Nationals, 112-106, before outclassing Diamond to advance to the finals.

Diamond, which finished second in the regular season with a 7-5 slate, topped the Runnin' Rebels in its first playoff game, 72-61 and downed Ol'Aces, 89-76, before bowing to Docomo.



Docomo's Mark Wallace is double-teamed by Diamond Auto Care's Brendo Talania, left, and Junar Guiab during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Auto Fixers dropped to the loser's bracket, but still have a chance to gain the last finals seat on April 13. Diamond has two wait for results of two more games before

knowing its next foe.

IT&E, which ousted Quichocho Law Office via an 82-73 victory in Monday night's first game, will face the CNMI Nationals tonight at 8pm. The

winner of the Nationals-IT&E tiff will then duel Ol'Aces this Friday at 7pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The victor of the Good Friday match will challenge Diamond Auto Care for the last finals berth. Whichever team takes the last championship ticket will have to beat Docomo twice to gain the title.

Game 1 of the finals is set for April 15 and Game 2, if necessary, will be played on April 17.

Mark Wallace led Docomo's two-point win over Diamond, firing 34 points. He and Christopher Paul canned one free throw each in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter to help preserve Docomo's victory.

Paul also finished in double figures with 11 points.

Diamond missed key players Elmer Esdrelon and Bruce Berline, who were playing on Tinian the same night the Auto Fixers faced Docomo.

Docomo was also without gunner Rvan Sanciangco and big man Kelvin Fitial, who were also on Tinian, playing for Pacific Islands Club. But

with Wallace and Paul in town, Docomo hardly felt Sanciangco and Fitial's absence.

Quichocho was hit hard by the absence of its six players, who were also on Tinian. Quichocho fell behind by 10 early in the first, 11-21, and never recovered from thereon.

First Game

IT&E 82 - De Dios 18. Mendiola 18, Abuel 11, Montano 11, De Vero 8, De Guzman 6, Ranola 4, Mercurio 3, Artates 1.

Quichocho Law Office 73 -Lerio 36, Itaas 18, Demapan 8, Tagle 7, Pantaleon 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 44-32, 66-48, 82-73

Second Game

Docomo 81 - Wallace 34, Paul 11, Ja. Villacrusis 9, Palacios 8, Rasa 8, Manibusan 5, Lee 4, Mendez 2.

Diamond 79 - Joyner 18, Peredo 17, Talania 12, Guiab 8, Gamboa 6, Brostom 6, Muleta 4, Fernandez 4, Camacho 3,

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 42-37, 63-61, 81-79.

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Air Jordan has a new name: Hall of Famer.

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Jets assured of Senior



Two-time defending champion Jets virtually won the Senior League pennant of the 2009 Saipan Little League following its 12-0 drubbing of Lion King last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Far Heels too much for Spartans

arm and fuzzy they were not. For a year, maybe more, North Carolina could feel this national championship coming.

It was a calculated march, and behind the unrelenting play of Tyler Hansbrough, Wayne Ellington and Ty Lawson, the Tar Heels stomped out Michigan State's inspirational run Monday night with an 89-72 blowout that wasn't that close.



"I felt like it was fitting for us to do what this group just

accomplished," coach Roy Williams said.

Hansbrough scored 18 points, Ellington had 19 and Lawson led all scorers with 21 and also had a record eight steals. Now, they and Danny Green can all head to the NBA feeling good about their decision to return to school. They're bringing home Carolina's fifth championship, and the second for Williams.

All those upperclassmen, save Hansbrough, came back in part because their draft prosNorth Carolina routs Michigan State, 89-72



North Carolina head coach Roy Williams, center, celebrates with his team after their 89-72 victory over Michigan State in the championship game at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament, Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in Detroit.

pects didn't look so good. They also didn't want their college

embarrassing loss to Kansas in the Final Four. That was a dud careers to end on last year's of a game in which they trailed

40-12 in the first half and Billy

This time, North Carolina led 36-13 around the time "Dancing on another network. At least nobody knew how that one was going to end.

This game, though, was a slam dunk. Ellington got choked up as he basked in the confetti. Williams gave a shout-out to his mentor, Dean Smith, and he almost started crying, too. Hansbrough was the first to grab one of those "National Champion" T-shirts. Nobody worked harder for it than him.

"Sounds like I made a pretty good decision," Hansbrough said. "Nothing beats this feeling right here."

Likewise, it can't feel much worse for the Spartans (31-7). They never had a chance. They had been on an uplifting run, and the final chapter was supposed to be the national championship. It would, the storybook said, bring the definitive ray of sunshine to a city and state that's been battered by an ailing economy.

Instead, the 90-mile ride home to East Lansing will be a quiet one.

"You've got six NBA players that could be drafted in the first round or early second," Spartans guard Travis Walton said. "You're looking at a team that could probably beat the worst team in the NBA."

See TAR HEELS on Page 26

UNC returnees accomplish title mission

DETROIT (AP)—The horn had barely sounded when Danny Green ran onto the court waving a towel, followed closely by Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington and the rest of their North Carolina teammates. They ran to midcourt, mobbed each other and jumped around on the Final Four logo.

This was the moment they hoped for.

This was the reason they staved.

And with Monday night's 89-72 win over Michigan State, the Tar Heel quartet who considered a jump to the NBA as underclassmen last year have accomplished what they came back to school to do.

They've won the program's fifth NCAA championship.

Hansbrough finished with 18 points, the final game of a career in which he set the Atlantic Coast Conference's scoring record and the school's rebounding mark.

Lawson had 21 points and a championship game-record eight steals, while Ellington



North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough celebrates after their 89-72 win over Michigan State in the championship game at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament Tuesday, April 7, 2009. in Detroit.

scored 17 of his 19 points in the first half to help the Tar Heels take a commanding lead. He ended the night as the Final Four's most outstanding player. Green had just six points before fouling out with 1:41 to play.

Still, the stats didn't mat-See UNC on Page 26

Packer was telling CBS view-

ing With The Stars" was start-

Michigan State's story ends with an ugly ending

By LARRY LAGE AP SPORTS WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—Michigan State's feel-good story ended with a thud.

The Spartans needed to play another sensational game just to have a chance against North Carolina on Monday night and they simply were awful.

The Tar Heels, of course, had a lot to do with that.

North Carolina set NCAA championship game records with 55 points and a 21-point lead en route to a 89-72 victory over Michigan State.

"I'm still proud of my guys," former Spartan star and Hall of Fame guard Magic Johnson said, walking out of Ford Field with 3 1/2 minutes left. "They played five great games to get here, but they just couldn't do it another time.

"It's still been an amazing ride to just get to this point."

The Spartans provided their depressed state with a temporary diversion from its economic woes by beating top-seeded teams Connecticut and Louisville to reach the title game.

"I think if we played as well



Michigan State's Kalin Lucas reacts during the second half of the championship game at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament, Monday, April 6, 2009, in Detroit.

as we did the last couple games, it would've been a game," coach Tom Izzo said. "I felt bad for the fans, but don't feel bad for our team. We had a heck of a year."

Michigan State and its fans will wake up Tuesday with a dose of reality.

The Spartans weren't good enough to beat North Carolina.

Goran Suton's 3-pointer put the Spartans ahead 49 seconds into the game, then things went downhill.

Fast.

Michigan State had twice as many turnovers (eight) as baskets (four) midway through the first half when it trailed 32-11.

"It was a blur," guard Travis Walton said.

The Spartans missed wideopen shots, got outhustled for loose balls, seemed helpless on defense and were careless with the basketball.

They even struggled with uncontested attempts.

When Chris Allen missed the front end of a 1-and-1, Izzo slumped into a squat on the sideline and covered his face.

"I really thought we missed some shots, even the front ends

See MICHIGAN on Page 26